

DAY, MAY 18, 1992

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Restoration support committee formed

AMMAN (Petra) — Building on the initiative of His Majesty King Hussein to make a personal donation of \$8.25 million towards the restoration of Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques in occupied Jerusalem, a special committee for supporting the initiative has been formed with Dr. Bassam Al Saket as its chairman. The committee's spokesman Daoud Sulaiman Daoud, a former member of parliament for Jerusalem constituency, said the committee groups Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber as vice chairman, Mr. Asem Ghossein as second vice chairman, Zaki Al Ghoul as secretary and Elia Naqul as treasurer. In addition to being spokesman Mr. Sulaiman Daoud is also head of the standing office. Mr. Daoud also announced the formation of an executive board headed by Dr. Rajal Muasher. The board includes Ziad Innab, Dr. Kamal Al Shaer, Mr. Khalil Al Talhoumi, Michel Marto, Mr. Khalidoun Abu Hassa, Mr. Tawfiq Fakhouri, Mr. Khalil Haddadin, Mr. Muir, Hammad, Mr. Wasel Awar, Mr. Moisa Shihadeh, Mr. Ziad Al Shurwekh, Mr. Issa Al Rimouni, Mr. Hussein Omar Touqah, Ibrahim Al Abbas, Mr. Sami Qumouh, Mr. Jawad Al Hadid, Mr. Mohammad Nahas, Mr. Rajal Saifit, Mr. Abdul Razaq Al Bataineh, Mr. Nasrat Al Bitar and Mr. Abdul Kader Al Qadi.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Swiss voters decide to join IMF

GENEVA (R) — Swiss voters decided on Sunday to join the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank despite their long history of shunning foreign entanglements. It was the first major chance since the end of the cold war for the neutral country to decide whether to remain in isolation or to join world bodies. Six years ago voters firmly rejected joining the United Nations. Final results released on Sunday night by the federal chancellery showed 920,734 voters, 55.8 per cent of the total, said yes while 728,140 or 44.2 per cent said no. The Swiss recognised the political changes in Europe like the falling Berlin Wall and the changing system in Eastern Europe, Markus Lusser, president of the Swiss National Bank (central bank), told Reuters. "They made the conclusion that they had to open themselves internationally." The populous cities like Geneva, Zurich and Basle were solidly in favour, tipping the results from the rural cantons where voters were generally split 50-50. Several church and left-leaning groups had opposed joining the organisations on the grounds that they imposed too harsh austerity programmes on poor countries. Far-right groups also said no, arguing Switzerland should keep its money.

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Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — In observance of the Independence Day, all ministries and government departments will be closed Monday, May 25, according to a communique issued by acting Prime Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi Sunday.

Iran, Iraq discuss exchange of bodies

NICOSIA (R) — An Iraq-Iran committee has held its first meeting to discuss an exchange of corpses of soldiers killed in the 1980-88 war, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Sunday. IRNA said Tehran urged a quick swap of corpses and submitted its plan on the formation of joint teams to Iraqi officials and delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). IRNA said the meeting took place on Saturday in the western border city of Qasr-e-Shirin. One million people were killed or wounded from both sides in the Iran-Iraq war.

Pope beatifies founder of Opus Dei

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Sunday beatified the founder of the Catholic organisation Opus Dei — despite debate within the church — before more than 200,000 people. The beatification of Monsignor Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, held in St. Peter's Square, was one of the biggest celebrations since John Paul became Pope in 1978. Beatification is the final step before a possible declaration of sainthood. The beatification was surrounded by an unusual amount of debate, with some former Opus Dei members and church liberals charging it was hasty. The ceremony was sure to enhance the prestige of the organisation.

Libya orders out Kuwaiti diplomat

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said on Sunday one of its diplomats had been asked to leave Tripoli in retaliation for Kuwait's order to two Libyan diplomats to leave the country in compliance with a U.N. resolution on the Lockerbie issue. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tripoli had left Libya but did not say when his government had ordered the two Libyan diplomats out.

PLO punishes 'plotters'

VALLETTA (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has stripped three of its representatives in Malta of their diplomatic immunity and plans to send them home after they plotted to force the resignation of their local superior, Nemer Hamad, the Rome envoy of the PLO, told a Valletta news conference the three men would be repatriated after their failed attempt Friday. Nuha Tadris, the PLO's envoy to Valletta, said she was locked in her office for more than an hour on Friday by the plotters, who demanded she band in her resignation. The plotters, she said, included a first secretary and two counsellors. She said she had no explanation for what she called the "coup d'etat" at her mission. She did not say how she defeated the plotters' scheme.

UAE 'key supplier of pirate tapes'

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a major supplier of pirated music tapes in the Gulf which cost U.S. industry \$106 million last year, a senior U.S. trade official said on Sunday. "As we review the Gulf, the UAE is the major problem," Scott Pearson, director for Middle East and Mediterranean affairs at the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), told a news conference during a Gulf tour. "Other Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, are just markets, but the UAE is the source of supply." The U.S. trade official said around \$60 billion a year due to copyright, trademark and patent infringements worldwide. It has been pushing the Gulf states to stop piracy by passing laws to protect trademarks, copyrights and patents.

Snags ensnare Solh government

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The future of Lebanon's new government has been thrown into doubt with one headline Christian leader refusing to serve and another saying he would think about it. Samir Geagea, head of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) group, said he was resigning only three hours after Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh named his 24-member administration on Saturday.

Georges Saadeh, leader of the Christian Kataeb (Falange) Party, said his group would meet on Monday to decide whether he should accept the post of minister of posts and communications which he held in the previous government.

Dr. Geagea, appointed minister of state, complained that the new government had 15 members from the cabinet of Prime Minister Omar Karame, ousted 11 days ago by nationwide riots over its failure to halt the collapse of Lebanon's war-shattered economy.

"I will not participate in the new government and I announce my resignation from it," he told the local television station LBC. "The main reason... is that it is formed of almost the same people as the previous government."

Dr. Geagea, a vehement opponent of Syria's traditionally strong influence in Lebanon, had refused to join Mr. Karame's government on the grounds that it had a majority of pro-Syrian ministers.

He called on other ministers to resign from the government. Mr. Saadeh, whose party is equally hostile to Damascus, told reporters: "We will refuse to accept any government imposed on us."

The 24-man cabinet was announced in decrees issued by President Elias Hrawi on the eve of a labour union deadline for a general strike.

"I am satisfied with the new cabinet," Mr. Solh told reporters after reading the presidential decrees. "May God guide us to serve the interests of all Lebanese."

The cabinet included 16 ministers from Mr. Karame's outgoing administration, including the warlords whose militias fought Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. Among the warlords, in addition to Dr. Geagea were Walid Junblatt, whose Progressive

Socialist Party fielded the strongest leftist militia; and Nabih Berri, head of the pro-Syrian Shiite Amal militia. The Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizbollah was not represented in the cabinet. Hizbollah leaders have said they do not want to take part in any government because they contend the system is corrupt.

The structure of the new cabinet maintains the traditional sectarian balance by giving the three main sects — the Maronites, the Sunnis and the Shiites — five seats each.

The Greek Orthodox community was given three seats, the Greek Catholics and Druze were represented by two ministers each, and the Protestants and Armenians by one apiece.

Eight new ministers were brought in including Assad Diab, a Shiite with a long service as examining magistrate, and Samir Makdessi, a Protestant, for the Ministry of Economy.

Mr. Diab and Mr. Makdessi, a professor of economics at the American University of Beirut, will have to deal with the economic crisis that made the cost of living in peacetime higher than any time during the civil war.

Dr. Geagea, in his resignation remarks, lauded the inclusion of Mr. Diab and Mr. Makdessi in the new cabinet but added: "They won't be able to do anything as they are only two people in a government of 24 who are all politically illiterate."

Many Lebanese, anxious to see new blood in the cabinet, said they were disappointed that it had brought back the very men they believed were behind the economic collapse.

"The new government is as bad as the old one and may be worse... it brought the same old people... I don't think it will last for long," said Ali Jamal, a 30-year-old policeman.

Mr. Solh said he would seek closer ties with Syria which has an estimated 40,000 troops in Lebanon and signed a treaty last year under which the two countries pledged to coordinate their military, political, economic and cultural policies.

Mr. Solh also said he would work for national reconciliation and the liberation of a South Lebanon border zone from Israeli occupation.

Rains lash Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Torrential rain fell in Jordan Sunday and is expected to continue through Monday, according to the Meteorology Department. The department attributed the prevailing weather conditions to a cold air mass originating from north Turkey and moving towards Jordan. More rainfall is expected today (Monday) with a drop in temperature. In a statement to Petra, the department's head, Ali Abanda, said Saturday heavy rains and thunder storms were expected Sunday and Monday. Starting Friday evening, the country was affected by notable weather conditions which caused rainfall and thunder storms in the northern and central parts of Jordan.

Middle East Watch slams Saudi 'reforms'

CAIRO (R) — A New York-based human rights group made a scathing attack on reforms announced by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, saying they merely "codify royal authoritarianism." In a 62-page report sent to Reuters in Cairo, Middle East Watch, an arm of Human Rights Watch, criticised the U.S. administration for praising the reforms, announced on March 1. "While these laws constitute significant steps towards codifying the largely unwritten legal system of the country, they fall far short of internationally recognised standards in their treatment of civil and political rights," it said.

"These laws had been long overdue... disappointingly, the final products are far below expectations," the report added. King Fahd, under growing domestic and foreign pressures to introduce democratic reforms into his extremely conservative kingdom, issued three "basic laws" on March 1. One of them provides for an appointed consultative council.

But in an interview published on March 28, the monarch ruled out elections and Western-style democracy in Saudi Arabia, saying they were unsuitable for the region.

U.S. officials have said the new Saudi laws are "very important steps" on the road to democratisation.

But the report said: "While the United States publicly pushes for democratic reforms in Cuba, Iraq, Kenya and elsewhere, it has remained mute towards one of the most singularly undemocratic nations in the world, its longtime ally Saudi Arabia."

"(Middle East Watch) calls on the U.S. administration to take advantage of the 50-year-old special relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia to press for laws that do more than codify royal authoritarianism," it added.

The group criticised the way the laws were drafted by an ad hoc committee headed by Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz, the king's brother. Prince Nayef also heads the Interior Ministry, which the report described as "the principal government agency identified with most violations of human rights in Saudi Arabia."

It attacked the new consultative council, saying the statutes gave the king the right to dismiss any or all of its 61 members. The report also accused the Saudi government of putting pressure on neighbouring Gulf states to limit democratic reforms.

As examples of shortcomings in the new Saudi legislation, Middle East Watch made the following observations: — "The basic law of government is either silent or tentative on most universally recognised

house fighting and what they described as the lack of a proper and democratic decision-making process have brought the association to its knees both financially and morally.

Although the resigned members and the president seemed in agreement over the important tasks facing the association, Mr. Khreisat was repeatedly accused of taking a conciliatory attitude towards issues which require immediate action or may need confrontation with the government and newspaper owners.

The decision to circulate a petition demanding the resignation of Mr. Khreisat and the three remaining members of the committee was taken before any indication emerged that the four would accept a compromise proposal by the mediating committee.

After the petition started circulating on Sunday, however, the remaining members said they were willing to accept a condition by the resigned members that reconciliation be achieved in an unofficial meeting and all members of the committee, including one who was sacked by Mr. Khreisat because he failed to attend committee meetings, return to their posts.

The mediating committee had originally asked Mr. Khreisat to accept this proposal but it was rejected at the time.

A resigned member who asked he remain anonymous said he was willing for reconciliation if the mediating committee recommends it. He said he believed the other resigned members will also abide by the mediators' recommendations.

The continued collection of signatures on the petition, according to some of the signatories, was not aimed at piling pressure on Mr. Khreisat, but was in line with the decision taken by the JPA general assembly Saturday evening and would be "considered cancelled if a compromise was brokered in the next two days."

Compromise eludes feuding JPA factions

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) remained in disarray Sunday as hope to contain internal strife and avoid new executive committee elections hinged on last-minute efforts to restore unity to the organisation to which over 200 journalists belong.

Signatures were being collected Sunday for a petition which calls on the executive committee to resign and open the way for general elections, which are technically not due for another ten months. This move was taken after a volunteer mediating committee, which spent some 20 hours consulting with the different sides last week said Saturday they saw no hope of reconciling the feuding parties and recommended that the government be approached to dissolve the committee in preparation for elections according to the association's law. The decision to circulate the petition was taken Saturday evening after efforts seemed to have reached a deadlock.

However, in response to this decision, JPA President Hashem Khreisat and the three remaining members of the committee (five have resigned and a sixth has passed away) contacted a member of the mediating committee to continue its efforts to salvage the executive committee.

The festering problems of JPA had led to the resignation of the five members of the executive committee in protest against the lack of progress in the running of its affairs leading to a showdown between the resigned members and Mr. Khreisat.

This left the committee redundant since decisions can only be taken in a meeting where six members are present.

According to several members of the association interviewed by the Jordan Times last week, the recurrent financial problems of the association, the chronic in-

Israeli, Palestinian killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians shot dead an Israeli livestock trader in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday and a Palestinian died of gunshot wounds sustained in earlier incident. Security sources said. The Israeli, David Cohen, was on his way back to Israel from a slaughterhouse when the men ambushed his car near the village of Beit Lahia, security sources said. He was shot in the head and died. Arab reports said his car bore Israeli licence plates. The army clamped a curfew on the area and police and soldiers searched the area for suspects. The motive behind the attack was not immediately known, but the killing of a Jew in the occupied territories could reinforce support for the right-wing ruling Likud Party's headline approach to the 4½-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The uprising is a major issue in campaigns for the June 23 general elections. The last Israeli killed in the occupied Gaza Strip was an Arab man from the northern port city of Haifa who was stabbed to death in a vegetable market on April 11.

Soldiers clamped a curfew on Beit Lahia and set up roadblocks after the attack which brought to 85 number of Israelis killed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the Palestinian uprising began in December 1987.

A police source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the slain man was a 64-year-old Jew from a farming cooperative in the northern desert, 18 kilometres from the Gaza Strip.

Also Sunday, a Palestinian who had been shot by Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip last month died of his wounds, Arab reports and the army said.

Khalil Taim, 25, from the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, died in the East Jerusalem Mukkased hospital, the reports and the army said.

Taim was among dozens wounded in violent clashes April 11 sparked when soldiers shot dead four Palestinians after fire-bombs were allegedly thrown on the troops.

Qadhafi is confident crisis will be resolved

ROME (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has said he believes an accord will be reached in Libya's dispute with the West over the Pan Am flight bombing but offered no clues how, according to Italian newspapers. Libya invited Italian reporters to Colonel Qadhafi's tent-office in his compound in Tripoli, and he spoke about U.S. and British demands for the extradition of two Libyans wanted for the bombing of the flight over Scotland in 1988. "I think we'll reach an accord," an Italian news agency quoted Col. Qadhafi as saying. He reiterated a Libyan stand that the two men were free to hand themselves over but that Tripoli had no authority to surrender them. "Libya as a state has nothing against these citizens going be-

fore any court whatsoever." Col. Qadhafi told Italian reporters. His remarks were published by Sunday newspapers.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Beshari said on Thursday that Tripoli would not hand over the two men.

Asked about Mr. Beshari's statement, Col. Qadhafi answered: "Forcing two citizens to give themselves up is one thing, to say one has nothing against their trial is another."

"The Libyan state does not tell them to go neither here nor there. They are free to choose."

Col. Qadhafi said he could not exclude the Vatican playing a role in helping to resolve the crisis. U.N.-imposed sanctions, including a ban on flights to and from Libya, went into force

(Continued on page 5)

Kurdish chemists step in to ensure Tuesday's elections

ERBIL, Iraq (Agencies) — Kurdish chemists, their fingers black with silver nitrate, raced against the clock on Sunday to produce enough indelible ink to ensure the first free elections in Iraqi Kurdistan can go ahead on Tuesday.

Voting in the rebel-held area was postponed for 48 hours on Saturday night because a supposedly indelible German-made ink, meant to prevent multiple voting, turned out to be washable.

The chemists, led by a university professor, are brewing up an alternative at Salahuddin University in the city of Erbil, just within range of Baghdad's biggest field guns. They said they hoped to complete their task by Sunday evening.

In the absence of electoral rolls, election officers need the ink to mark Kurdistan's 1.1 million voters on the wrist as they cast their ballots for a paramount leader of the Kurdish movement and for a Kurdistan parliament.

"We are saving Kurdistan," said the professor, who asked not be named.

"The only problem is that our hands are black from the ink... we are worried we may not be able to vote," he added.

A contingent of armed police guarding the university laboratory were all inside watching the chemists at work on their silver nitrate concoction.

"This is history and I want to see it," one of them said. "We are safe here... you can hear the American planes overhead."

The elections were originally to take place on Sunday but officials said the Kurdistan Front, the de facto government in the rebel-held north, had to postpone them once the problem with the German ink came to light.

"It would have been a catastrophe to go forward," said Karim Sinjari, a member of the supreme committee for elections. "Anyone could have challenged the results."

In hopes of reassuring neighbouring Turkey and Iran, Iraqi Kurdish leaders have insisted that the election will help improve

(Continued on page 5)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Minister of Finance

Iraqis will not accept new Kuwaiti border

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi minister said on Saturday Iraqis would never accept the border with Kuwait as demarcated by the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council would turn the region into a power keg if it ratified the new boundary.

Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, told a special session of the Iraqi parliament that the U.N. commission which drew the border in April was unjust, subject to Western pressure and partial to the Kuwaiti side.

The commission recommended in April that the border be moved northwards, giving Kuwait most of Iraq's main naval base at Umm Qasr and a larger share in the Rumailah oilfield.

Mr. Sahaf said Security Council ratification of the commission's ruling would constitute "a really grave precedent."

"The council would not be contributing to the establishment of stability but would turn the region into a nucleus for explosion," he said.

Even if the government was forced to accept the new boundary, "the Iraqi people can never be convinced. They realise their rights have been violated," he added.

The minister read a lengthy letter he said the Iraqi Foreign Ministry had prepared to send to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to explain Iraq's position on this "really dangerous issue."

He noted that the U.N. border commission, set up under a U.N. Security Council resolution in April 1991, had based its work on the basis of a 1963 boundary which Iraq disputes.

"The 1963 boundary (agreement) did not go through the necessary legislative stages and was not signed by the president of the republic," he said.

The new borders were in line with "the phenomenon of territorial advances by Kuwait," he added.

The minister repeated the Iraqi version of how Kuwait was "sliced off" from Iraq and said the new demarcation contradicted the facts of geography and history.

The Iraqi expert who took part in the commission's meetings, Riyadh Al Qaisi, told parliament the three independent experts on the commission had deliberately sought to undermine Iraq's territorial rights.

When Mr. Sahaf and Mr. Qaisi ended their statements, speaker after speaker denounced the results of the commission's work and urged the government not to comply.

"The Iraqi people cannot accept the new boundary under any circumstances," said one.

Some called on the government to ask for an emergency meeting of the Arab League to discuss the issue.

Others warned Kuwaitis they were asking for trouble if they did not take account of "historical facts."

The speaker told the members of parliament they had the right to discuss but not to take a decision. He then adjourned the session.

Hurd urges Gulf Arabs to seek regional security

KUWAIT (R) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd urged Gulf Arab states on Saturday to revive plans for collective security, largely dormant as each state tries to build up its own armed forces.

"Friends from afar have shown themselves in the recent past ready and able to help," he said in a reference to the Western-led military campaign that freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation 15 months ago.

"But that is no substitute for friends nearer to home in this area working out collective security arrangements," Mr. Hurd told a news conference in Kuwait.

He is in the emirate for a meeting earlier on Saturday between EC foreign ministers and the Six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Britain has repeatedly and publicly expressed concern that the GCC states, after early enthusiasm immediately after the Gulf war, have failed to make headway on collective security.

U.S. officials have also said in private that without progress on collective security the oil-producing region could be too dependent on Western protection.

In March last year the GCC states signed a pact with Egypt and Syria that would have deployed Egyptian and Syrian troops in Kuwait as the nucleus of a new regional force. But the agreement has remained in abeyance.

The GCC asked Sultan Qaboos of Oman to look into future security arrangements and last December the sultan proposed to a GCC summit that the six states set up a 100,000-strong standing army. But his proposal has yet to be taken up seriously.

"It is not for us to say which are the right proposals. But we can say that we agree with the stated wish of the GCC countries to make progress in ... collective security," Mr. Hurd said.

"We hope the momentum for this can be reestablished and priority given to collective agreements on regional security arrangements," he added.

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Ben Bella reports progress on graft inquiry

ALGIERS (R) — Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella, after three hours with an examining magistrate, said his campaign against alleged corruption in the 1980s was making progress, the newspaper Essalem reported on Sunday.

Mr. Ben Bella, ousted in a 1965 coup, has said variously that \$10 million and up to \$15 billion in state funds disappeared under Chadli Benjedid, president between 1979 and January 1992.

The examining magistrate is investigating the allegations.

Mr. Ben Bella appeared before him on Saturday and the newspaper quoted him as saying later, "the affair of the \$15 billion is moving in the right direction."

Current head of state Mohammed Boudiaf has promised to wipe out corruption but he is sceptical about Mr. Ben Bella's charges.

In an interview published by a Tunisian newspaper last Friday, he said, "Ben Bella holds no evidence... he has spoken of \$15 million misused, then he has spoken of \$15 billion."

"I am convinced that Ben Bella has no proof on which to base his accusations. The accusations he formulates are aimed at getting himself talked about."

A former prime minister, Abdul Hamid Brahimi, three years ago said \$26 billion, around the same figure as Algeria's crippling foreign debt, went on bribes and commissions involving foreign firms from independence in 1962 up to 1989.

Mr. Benjedid has promised to cooperate with any inquiry and has challenged detractors to "provide the slightest piece of proof for their lying allegations."

3 arrested

Police arrested three gunmen after a shootout that left one policeman dead and one of the militants in a coma, a military source said.

The shootout was near Lakhdaria, about 80 kilometres east of Algiers, on Thursday, said the source, who would not be further identified.

The leader of the local group of armed Muslim fundamentalists, known by his nom de guerre "Abu Zeid," was shot and seriously wounded.

He and two other fundamentalists were arrested. The head of the police unit that encircled them was killed, the source said.

Two other Islamic gunmen were arrested in Algiers for "plotting against state security," a government official said. There were no other details.

The military-backed government has stepped up arrests of Muslim militants since the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was banned in April.

The ruling high state committee took power after the government cancelled parliamentary elections that the fundamentalists were winning handily.

Several dozen police and other security personnel have been killed by armed groups, and several opposition arms caches seized since the elections were scrapped.

The balloting was for Algeria's first multiparty voting for a national assembly.

The fundamentalists have found widespread support among Algerians bitter about unemployment, the low standard of living, difficulty in immigration and political corruption.

Security forces have arrested one of the alleged killers of two policemen slain in a mosque last February, the para-military gendarmes said on Sunday.



Afghans ended communist rule after 14 years of war. They now face tough task of rebuilding their economy.

Afghanistan seeks to rebuild war-wrecked economy

By John Pomfret
The Associated Press

KABUL — The Coca-Cola plant in Kabul has had to deal with more than the usual business challenges: The Islamic revolution, bandits, power outages, and its competitor Pepsi poaching its engineers.

But Coke is coping. It gets its electricity from the nearby Ministry of Defence. It boasts a regiment of armed guards. And it plans to open another plant soon.

Afghanistan is a tough place to do business, but investment is just what the country needs as it struggles to rebuild its war-wrecked economy.

"The economy here is disastrous," said David Lockwood, the chief U.N. representative in Kabul. In the coming days, he says, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali will issue a worldwide plea for Afghanistan, the world's poorest country after Cambodia.

But even if other nations come up with the cash and food aid, getting Afghanistan back on its feet will be a daunting task.

The new government, made up of guerrilla groups, knows little about the economy and so far appears more interested in Islamising Afghanistan than getting people back to work. Fighting also could break out at any moment between troops loyal to rival guerrilla factions, vying for power in Kabul.

The minister of planning is an Islamic theologian. The Ministry

of Commerce is open for four hours a day, while the Ministry of Culture and Information, the spearhead of the Islamic movement, is working overtime.

Bands of hashish-smoking Mujahedeen still occupy important ministries and continue to loot offices, businesses and homes.

"The new men only know Islam and fighting," said Sarwar Jan Hawn, a 64-year-old former central bank official and well-known Kabul businessman. "If they continue this madness, we will end up starving."

While the new government has said it will not prosecute people for working with the former regime, many former officials are worried.

Timurshah Surkhabi, vice-president of Coca-Cola's operation in Kabul and former Bank of Afghanistan official, said: "If they start coming after us, all the engineers and science people will leave."

Mr. Mawin notes that the government has lost its biggest source of revenue: Customs duties. With tariffs traditionally lower than the protective economies of neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, Afghanistan has for years been a smugglers' paradise. But now, Afghan merchants do not want to risk losing their trucks on roads filled with bandits, so imports have collapsed.

"Effectively there is no government budget in Afghanistan," Mr. Lockwood says. "They have

no foreign exchange."

He said a recent \$250 million bill for imported food and fuel went unpaid.

Physically, Afghanistan is scarred by war. Carpet bombing and helicopter gunship attacks have devastated large areas. The United Nations estimates 10 million mines have been laid nationwide.

In 1978, the year before the communist-led coup, Afghanistan almost fed itself. In 14 years, grain production has dropped more than one-third — while the population has risen from about 12 million to 18 million.

The only growth industry has been opium cultivation, which last year reached 2,000 tonnes by U.N. estimates — more than any other nation.

Literacy stands at 38 per cent for men and nine per cent for women. Life expectancy rates are like something out of the middle ages — 40.5 to 42 years. So is access to safe drinking water — 15 per cent.

At the Coke plant, Mr. Surkhabi leads a reporter through the bottling room as 1960s-era machines crank out Coke, Fanta and Sprite. Pepsi's competing Kabul operation, which has yet to begin production, is very much on his mind.

Then a burst of gunfire explodes from the Ministry of Defence, and Mr. Surkhabi cowers near crates of empty bottles.

"I guess peace is important too," he says.

Opinion poll finds 16.1 per cent Palestinians favour independence

AMMAN (J.T.) — A public opinion poll undertaken in the occupied Arab territories in mid-April has found that 16.1 per cent of 1,518 people polled were in favour of establishing an independent Palestinian state. 26.4 per cent were in favour of self-rule, 6.5 per cent were in favour of confederation with Jordan, 50.3 per cent were in favour of maintaining the current situation and seven per cent had no idea.

The public opinion poll, carried out by the Nazareth-based Jaffa Research Centre, involved Arabs living under Israeli occupation, excluding residents of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

On participation in Israeli elections due to be held in June the poll found that 71.9 per cent of those surveyed were in favour of taking part. 10.6 per cent said they are not determined yet, and 17.5 per cent said they would be abstaining. Asked on who are they going to vote for 23.1 per

cent said they would vote for the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, 16.2 per cent said they would vote for the Democratic Arab Party, 10.7 per cent said they would vote for Progressive Bloc for Peace and Equality, 21.2 per cent said they would vote for the Labour Party, 9.4 per cent said they would vote for Mertz, 8.7 per cent said they would vote for the Likud, and 1.1 per cent said they would vote for other parties.

Asked whether they had confidence that the Knesset can restore their rights, 3.1 per cent said they have great confidence in the Knesset, 22.3 per cent said they had little confidence and 9.9 per cent said they had very little confidence. However, 18 per cent said they have no confidence in the Knesset's ability to restore their rights, while 38.5 per cent said they had some confidence.

Asked whether they think Arab masses can restore their rights through parliamentary

struggle, 42.3 per cent said yes, and 32.8 per cent said no, while 42.9 per cent said they had no opinion.

On the best proposals for improving conditions of Arabs under the Israeli rule, 37 per cent said they support a proposal calling on Arabs to discharge their own affairs, while 7.3 per cent said they preferred to maintain the current situation, 17.7 per cent said Arabs should merge in the state without undergoing military or national service and 15.8 per cent said they did not know.

Asked whether they prefer that the current peace talks be pursued, 70.8 per cent said they were in favour, 17.3 per cent were against and 11.8 per cent said they did not know.

Asked whether they are satisfied with the performance of the Palestinian delegation, 51.4 per cent said yes, 31.5 per cent said they were satisfied to a certain extent, and 17.1 per cent said no.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Pepsi withdraws evolution ad campaign

TEL AVIV (R) — Pepsi Cola's Israeli distributor said on Sunday his company would drop an advertising campaign showing a Pepsi-drinking man evolving from apes. The campaign, the first since Pepsi went on sale in Israel this month, had been challenged by ultra-religious Jews who reject the theory of evolution. "From now on there will be no more ape advertisements," Moshe Boronstein, chairman of Tempo, Pepsi's Israeli distributor, told Israel Radio. The campaign portrayed the soft drink as the choice of "a new generation," the latest in man's evolution. An ultra-orthodox Jewish court threatened to boycott Pepsi Cola unless it dropped the campaign. The court could have withheld the kosher certification that the drink was fit for consumption by Jews. Mr. Boronstein, himself a religious Jew, said his company would no longer use the campaign to promote the drink in Israel. The U.S.-based Pepsi company, once criticised by the Jewish state as a supporter of the Arab boycott, entered the Israeli market this month, challenging Coca Cola.

8 die in latest clashes in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Security forces killed seven Kurdish guerrillas and separatists killed a child in two separate incidents Sunday, the Anatolia news agency reported. The dispatch said the guerrillas were killed in Siirt province, in southeastern Turkey, after they opened fire on troops on patrol. In the eastern province of Kars, Kurdish rebels attacked a district where policemen's families live, killing a child and seriously injuring a woman, Anatolia said. On Saturday, Turkish troops crossed into Iraq to pursue Turkish Kurdish insurgents who had attacked a military outpost in Sinaak province, killing 27 soldiers. The guerrillas suffered 40 dead before withdrawing across the border. Military authorities would not say whether the operation inside Iraqi territory was still under way Sunday. Kurdish guerrillas operating in the region belong to the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast, home to about half of Turkey's 12 million ethnic Kurds.

Ethiopia to liberalise labour laws

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's new rulers, breaking the shackles of the Marxist past, are to liberalise labour laws and allow workers and employers to form associations. "The proposed labour law gives employers and workers the right to form individual associations without interference," Prime Minister Tamrat Layne told African labour ministers. "It also fully incorporates the provisions of international labour standards with the right to bargain freely and voluntarily." Analysts said the adoption of more liberal labour laws would improve the climate for investment the new government needs to raise living standards in the country. The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) took power when dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam was chased into exile one year ago. He tried to turn Ethiopia into a model Marxist state and used trade unions as a Stalinist-style extension of his rule. The Ethiopian premier was addressing the opening session of a six-day meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) labour commission grouping employers and workers. OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said the main problem facing Africa was joblessness. "Unemployment is a scourge and if not checked will paralyse African society," he said.

Historic Istanbul bridge collapses

ISTANBUL (R) — A historic bridge over the Golden Horn in Istanbul collapsed on Saturday after a fire broke out in a restaurant on the bridge's lower level, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. No one was injured. The central section of the Galata Bridge, built for the Ottoman government by a German company 80 years ago, fell into the water when the fire twisted the girders supporting the roadway above. The authorities closed the bridge as soon as firefighters arrived to put out the fire, which spread to shops on the bridge and caused gas cylinders to explode. Officials said repairs would take up to five months. The 462-metre floating bridge links Karakoy and Eminonu, business districts on either side on the Golden Horn, an inlet off the Bosphorus.

Afghan guerrilla commander dies in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (R) — A prominent Afghan guerrilla commander has died of poisoning in neighbouring Pakistan, hospital sources said Saturday. They said commander Maulvi Naqibullah died on Thursday. The commander, who belonged to the Jamiat-e-Islami Party of President-designate Burhanuddin Rabbani, was brought to Pakistan for treatment after suffering from poisoning in the Afghan city of Kandahar last week. He underwent an operation in Karachi and was later taken to a hospital run by Mujahedeen guerrillas in the southwestern Pakistani town of Quetta where he died, they said. His body was later sent to Kandahar for burial.

Iran for pressure on Burma to repatriate refugees

DHAKA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived Sunday and urged countries to pressure Burma into taking back its 255,000 refugees in Bangladesh. A planned repatriation of the refugees was scheduled to begin Friday, but was delayed because Burma failed to complete arrangements, including transport, for taking back its refugees. Mr. Velayati called for international cooperation in finding "suitable ground" for the voluntary repatriation of Burmese Muslim refugees ousted by Rangoon's military junta. Many refugees do not want to return until the human rights situation improves in Burma. Under international pressure, Burma agreed last month to take back the refugees, but rejected a proposal — which the refugees favour — to involve the United Nations in the process. Bangladesh and Burmese officials were to meet in the frontier town of Teknaf on Sunday to decide the date when repatriation of the refugees would begin. Mr. Velayati, heading a 10-member delegation, will hold talks Monday on issues of bilateral importance with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le jeu des animaux
18:07 Le Monde Sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Capital City
22:00 News in English
22:30 Gold

PRAYER TIMES

04:06 Fajr
05:35 Sunrise (Sunrise) Doha
12:32 Dhuhur
16:12 Asr
19:29 Maghreb
20:57 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632795
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637481

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Tarrantia Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625393, Tel. 625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 648326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 723624, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The Kingdom will remain under the effect of the cold front. Therefore, it will be partly cloudy and relatively cold and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 10 / 21

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 18 / 20
Deserts 18 / 23
Jordan Valley 15 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim 724072
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Saad Abu Hatah 649846
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tuayem 620115
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nurok pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmash pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence: Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 646390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 603804
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmash 644714
Shmash Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushar Hospital 667279

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:15 Samsa (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Larnaca (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:30 Beirut (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:10 Bangkok (RJ)
20:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:25 Cairo (MS)
13:25 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
16:30 Istanbul (TK)
19:20 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
20:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Belgrade, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Montreal, New York (RJ)
22:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

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11:25 Cairo (MS)
14:35 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
17:30 Istanbul (TK)
23:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Lb per kg

Apple (red) 700 / 600
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Muskanna) 500 / 500
Beans 350 / 250
Cabbage 100 / 50
Carrot 180 / 120
Cauliflower 300 / 220
Cucumbers (large) 80 / 40
Cucumbers (small) 180 / 120
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 1000 / 800
Lemon 400 / 400
Marrow (large) 70 / 40
Marrow (small) 150 / 100
Onion (dry) 210 / 160
Onion (green) 150 / 100
Oranges 300 / 220
Pepper (hot) 300 / 600
Pepper (sweet) 250 / 200
Potato 300 / 250
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 600 / 500
Spinach 150 / 100
Tomato 500 / 350

Airport Tel. (08)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

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سكنا من لاجل

Jordan-German development schemes to involve women

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Women and Development Sector at the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) initiated a pilot project, at the end of 1991, in an attempt to integrate women into already existing and planned Jordanian-German development schemes in the country.

The idea is to help integrate women into the different sectors in society, to enable them to enroll in training courses and to attain decision-making positions.

The project consists of several phases, the first of which entails research on the best approach for the target group and on ways to launch the project, according to Eva Augustine, women and development advisor for GTZ.

A questionnaire was distributed to men and women on the role of women in different sectors. "Based on these results, we hope to come up with some clues and recommendations," Ms. Augustine said, pointing out that some of the big question marks have already been identified.

Addressing an audience at the Goethe Institute, Ms. Augustine said: "We see a lot of problems and new ones are coming up."

Citing an example, she said that one of the phases of a German project, entitled the testing of the quality of pesticides. In a study conducted a few months ago, it became clear that residue of pesticides was found in mother's milk.

"We are starting now to help develop information packages which target women's use of pesticides in household gardening and seasonal picking in the Jordan Valley, and how women are affected by mis-handling (the pesticides)," Ms. Augustine said.

Indications as to the success of the project will become apparent once the women begin to verbalise their needs and interests, Ms. Augustine asserted. "The goal is to im-

prove the situation of women and their families through the whole process of participating in development schemes."

"Empowerment" is the right word, she added. "That they should be able to decide what they need and in the long run, the women can improve their lives."

GTZ's women and development project is the first of its kind, with two other pilot projects currently launched in the Philippines and Colombia.

"This gender awareness is a new concept and I think technical people do not really appreciate the importance of the role of women," said Maha Al Khatib, the local consultant to the project. "Even women are not fully cognisant of their importance in the development of society," she added.

For example, one of the heads of a centre has been giving women a chance to reach decision-making posts. But, Ms. Khatib said: "We find that the women are unable to express themselves" and finally turn down the opportunity.

The status of women in Jordan is becoming a complicated issue in light of the unemployment rates, Ms. Khatib said. "It seems women are paying the price." The advancement of women in Jordan will solve many social problems like education and health, for instance, she added.

"When you only activate half the population, you get half the benefits," she explained. "When chances are not given to half the population (women) to integrate themselves into the economy and share the responsibilities with men in the society, then a family cannot get more income and cannot improve their level."

A workshop will take place in October to spread as much awareness as possible about the significance of the role of women. "We hope that some change would occur after the two-day workshop," Ms. Khatib said. "It is a matter of time, I think," she added.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday inaugurates the exhibition of sheltered workshops of the Young Women's Muslim Association

Princess inaugurates exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday inaugurated the permanent exhibition of sheltered workshops of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA).

The YWMA's exhibition aims to provide a permanent place where items made by the handicapped can be displayed.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the association's administrative committee's chairperson, Khwala Abu Odeh, praised Princess Sarvath for her efforts to support the society and to enable it to contribute to the social and economic development of the country.

Princess Sarvath toured the exhibition, which included wooden furniture, ceramics, carpets, children's toys and artistic plates made by handicapped students.

The sheltered workshops were established at Sahab Industrial Estate in 1987 with support from the Arab Gulf Programme for Supporting the United Nations Agencies (AGFUND), the Japanese and American governments.

The workshops are currently attended by 37 handicapped students, in addition to 15 trainers and supervisors. The workshops have recently been bidding to get contracts for manufacturing wooden furniture for the Ministry of Education, as well as a number of other organisations and companies.

The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Social Development Amin Mashaqbeh, the American ambassador in Amman, director of the Development and Employment Fund, representatives for the United States Agency for International Development and the first secretary at the Japanese Embassy.

VTC to expand, open new training centres

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) is going ahead with plans to expand the present vocational training centres and opening new ones in the Kingdom so as to meet the growing demand of skilled workers in the local market, VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan said Sunday.

Addressing a press conference at his office to mark the opening of an exhibition displaying items produced by 24 vocational centres in the Kingdom, Dr. Atwan noted that the new labour law provides ample arrangements for expanding these centres and caters to the need of the workers.

The VTC plans to conduct surveys in order to determine the actual needs of the labour market of skilled manpower and will pursue efforts to include vocational training programmes in all educational stages in the post secondary level, said Dr. Atwan.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Friday opened the week-long exhibition which displays items produced by trainees at 24 centres in Jordan, and it was announced that these items could be sent directly to the public.

The exhibition, which marks the VTC's 15th anniversary, aims to promote the role of vocational training and its important contribution towards socio-economic development in the Kingdom, said Dr. Atwan. This exhibition displays the VTC's new plans to produce equipment and a number of machines needed by the VTC centres like lathes for woodwork, saws and equipment used in dressmaking, with prices equal to one quarter the price of similar products sold in the local markets and certain industries in Jordan, Dr. Atwan noted.

The VTC, which was established in 1977, has trained 65,000 people of whom 42,000 have already turned out, and it established 24 training centres and institutes in different regions of Jordan, Dr. Atwan added. He said that the VTC has also offered direct training, consultation and studies services to Arab and Islamic countries, including Iraq, Bahrain, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Palestine and Pakistan. Services to these countries were offered through cooperation with Arab regional and international organisations, according to Dr. Atwan.

He said that the past two years witnessed an increase in demand on vocational training in view of the growing need of the local market and the government's decision to give local workers priority over non-Jordanians in employment.

Ministry report reveals statistics concerning intifada, settlements, human rights violations

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of Palestinian people killed during the ongoing intifada in the occupied Arab territories reached 1,227 by the end of last month and the Israeli authorities stepping up repressive measures to subdue the Palestinian resistance, according to a monthly report issued Sunday by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs in Amman.

In the course of its repressive measures in the occupied territories, the Israeli government has reduced to 20,000 the number of Arab workers allowed to work within the so-called green line and reduced the number of Arab trucks crossing the River Jordan with agricultural crops heading for Jordan and other Arab countries, the report said.

The report said the reduced export of West Bank and Gaza vegetables, the report added, was bound to have adverse effects on the Palestinian agricultural sector.

The report said that since the beginning of the occupation of Palestinian land in the 1967 war and until the end of April 1992, the Israeli authorities have confiscated more than three million dunums of Arab-owned land on which it built settlements to encourage Jews to settle. It said that so far the Israelis have set up 184 Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab West Bank and 20 in the Gaza Strip.

In the past month, Israeli courts tried 174 Palestinian citizens, many of whom were fined or given jail terms ranging from a few months to several years, the report noted.

It said that the Israeli move to seize more Arab land was continuing unabated and the campaign to build more Jewish settlements was escalating in April. It said that the campaign aims to increase the number of Jewish settlers in Arab lands from the present level of 115,000 to one million in the coming few years.

Referring to Jerusalem, the report said that the Israelis have made plans to build nine settlements in the Holy City, two of which will be built inside the walled city.

In reference to human rights violations in the occupied lands, the report said that the Israeli last month stormed homes in tens of villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the course of their search for youths accused of participating in resistance activity.

As to the conditions of detainees and prisoners in Israeli jails, the report said that Arab inmates are constantly tortured, beaten and kept in solitary confinement.

Since December 1987, when the intifada began around 25,000 Palestinians have been jailed and tortured, said the report.

The report also said that restrictions are imposed on transport and travel to and from the occupied Arab territories and curfews are constantly clamped on refugee camps. It said the Israeli authorities have lately resorted to the closure of schools for prolonged periods.

Senior public administrators' seminar to be held

AMMAN (J.T.) — Plans are underway to hold a seminar for senior public administrators by the middle of June under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to discuss progress in the implementation of government plans to reform the country's public administration system, according to Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Director General Abdullah Ulayan.

The IPA is also organising two specialised training programmes for those officials responsible for the administrative development programme in all government ministries and public institutions in the coming month to discuss means of simplifying and facilitating public office procedures and routine.

Mr. Ulayan noted in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sunday.

Mr. Ulayan said that these measures are being adopted in the course of the implementation of a reform programme as ordered by the prime minister four months ago.

In announcing the programme, Sharif Zeid said that the government was determined to carry out the reform programme and will tie it to a timetable in which all government departments will be committed. The prime minister said that he would personally follow up measures related to their reform and announce to the public where progress has been achieved.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent visits Armed Forces
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visited the Armed Forces Headquarters where he was received by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, chief of staff for land forces, chief of staff for the Royal Jordanian Air Force and a number of assistants to Mr. Abu Taleb. Prince Hassan met with Field Marshal Abu Taleb and discussed with him a number of issues of interest to the Armed Forces.

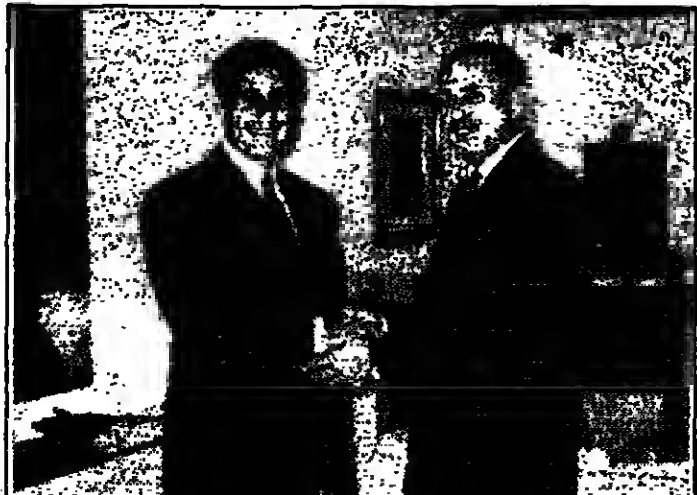
Teams to inspect restoration project
AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Al Haram Sharif at the Aqaf Ministry Rafik Al Katib Sunday said that companies prequalified for the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock will send technical teams and senior engineers to the Aqsa Mosque beginning today to obtain first-hand information about the project to be carried out. Mr. Khatib, who is also the rapporteur of the committee in charge of the restoration, stressed that the mosque will remain the symbol of Islamic unity. He praised His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to restore the mosque, saying that all holy places in Jerusalem have always remained on the mind and conscience of the Hashemite family.

Committee to study compensation benefits
AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee formed by the Labour Ministry to study and pursue the issue of indemnities due to Jordanian workers returning from Kuwait will meet today to discuss arrangements for filling claims for compensation recently sent by a special United Nations commission in charge of compensations. The committee will also look into regulations for processing applications, after distributing the claim forms to those affected by the Gulf war.

Concert to benefit poor students
AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal, a charity concert will be held at the University of Jordan on Thursday. Proceeds from this concert by Rola Kamiran will benefit the Poor Student Fund at the University of Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hazem Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Zreik at Alfa Art Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luweldel.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rida Hus Hus at the French Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Al Tunisiyya at the Orthodox Club.
 - ★ Exhibition of embroidery and hand-made items at the Philadelphia Hotel lobby — (8 a.m. - 11 p.m.).
- EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- ★ Belgian film entitled "Home Murders" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.
- POETRY RECITAL**
- ★ Arabic poetry recital by Abdul Wahab Al Bayyati, Izzeddin Manasra and Khairi Mansour at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.



HORIZON ESTABLISHES NEW OPERATION: Horizon has announced the opening of its newest operation in the Middle East advertising network in Amman and has appointed Saad Hijawi as its managing partner in charge. Mr. Hijawi is also responsible for supervising the activities of the Kuwait office, an operation he jointly founded in 1976 with Rafic Saadeh, currently chairman of Horizon. Mr. Hijawi said the market was undergoing change, particularly in view of the influx of expatriates returning from Kuwait who are seeking to invest in various businesses. The market will move forward with the injection of new life and innovative ideas, Mr. Hijawi noted. The Horizon network has its headquarters in Athens with field offices in Beirut, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Paris and now, Amman. Offices in Amman are located at the Al Aqad Building on Wasfi Al Tal Street.



BERLIN

Inch by inch we are covering the world

Berlin, the cross road of East and West Europe. Royal Jordanian invites you to the culturally rich city of Berlin. Effective from June 26, we will serve you with twice weekly non-stop flights on board our Airbus A310 as per the following schedule:

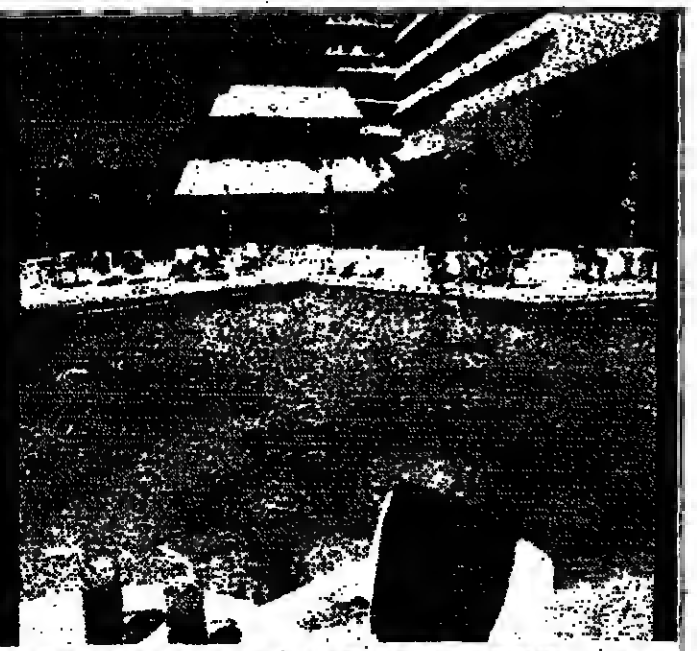
	Day	Depart	Arrive
Amman	Wed. & Fri.	11:35 a.m.	03:10 p.m.
Berlin	Thr. & Sat.	02:00 p.m.	07:30 p.m.

This is an addition to our four weekly flights to Frankfurt. For your comfort and convenience Royal Jordanian is adding yet another destination to its existing operations to Germany, providing you with greater schedule flexibility.

For more information and reservations please contact your travel agent or Royal Jordanian offices.

ROYAL JORDANIAN الملكية الأردنية

Tomorrow's international standards, today.



PLAZA HOTEL SWIMMING POOL OPENS — The summer swimming pool at the Amman Plaza Hotel was opened recently for the season. The pool has been equipped with modern facilities and all forms of convenience. The hotel management has arranged to provide services to visitors all day long.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جريدة الأردن سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Power from within

RECENTLY THE six Arab Gulf states meeting in Riyadh expressed reservation about the integration of Egypt and Syria into their regional security arrangements as originally agreed upon in the aftermath of the Gulf war. This posture found clear expression in the announcement that there is no definitive plan to convene a meeting for the foreign ministers of the eight Arab countries that fought against Iraq in the wake of its occupation of Kuwait. By way of natural reaction, the secretary-general of the Arab League, Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, announced at the league's headquarters in Cairo last Wednesday that "any security arrangements taking place presently between any Arab countries and Western countries will fail and cannot live for long." Dr. Abdul Meguid went on to say that "any arrangements to protect Arab security have to come from within the Arabs and between them, so that they can be enduring and convincing to Arab public opinion." The head of the Arab League's concern must have been directed at the Arab Gulf states defence agreements with the U.S. and Britain spearheaded by Kuwait's latest moves to consolidate such security coordinations with the two Western countries.

It goes without saying that the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) persistent efforts to consolidate its defence and economic relations with the West at the expense of its Arab relations, including those with Cairo and Damascus, will further divide the "Arab World," along new and additional lines. Such undesirable and ominous tremors among the Arab ranks cannot be left unanswered and need to be rectified before the division among the Arab countries become irrevocable and lasting. The most sensible antidote to this new Arab malaise is the one founded on urgent contacts and genuine dialogue. It is doubtful that the Arab Gulf states have reached the stage where they might have written off Arabism and Arab nationalism as irrelevant to their needs and survival. Should that be the case, the leaders of these Arab countries would have committed the gravest of all errors, the consequences of which may exceed anything that they may now construe as the greatest threat to their collective security.

No matter how grieved they were by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, they remain, nonetheless, Arabs and part of the homeland and nothing that they do will ever change that fact. As the secretary general of the Arab League has stated a few days ago, the only permanent and deep-rooted security that the Arab Gulf states can have and will continue to have is the one that is drawn from within the Arab Order and not from the outside.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Sunday commented on Jordan's recall of its ambassador to Yugoslavia for consultations noting that the move was motivated by the ongoing Yugoslav army attacks in the Bosnia-Herzegovina provinces. It is clear that the recalling of the envoy is meant as an expression of dismay and shock at the continued fighting despite the world community's efforts to end the war by peaceful means, the paper said. Jordan considers the current plight of the Bosnia-Herzegovina population as a violation of human rights which can not be condoned or ignored, it added. The sad events in Yugoslavia which led to human losses and severe material damages to property and destruction of economic and social centres are shocking the world at large prompting other nations like Jordan to recall their envoys and to demand an end to the fighting and a halt to attacks on the populated centres, the paper continued. Belgrade which realises the horrible outcome of the conflict has itself defended human rights in the past and had maintained strong ties with the Arab and Islamic world under President Tito. It is known that the majority of the people of the embattled region are Muslims, and Belgrade is called on not to allow ethnic or religious motives control its behaviour and cause harm to other people, demanded the paper. It said that Belgrade ought to protect what is left of the ties with the Arab and Muslim World and ought to prevent further bloodshed and open new avenues for positive fruitful cooperation among the various states in the Balkan region.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on reports from the occupied territories about the deliberate poisoning by the Israeli troops of 230 women and children, noting that it was one of a series of crimes that have been ignored by the world community. Israel has committed hundreds of similar crimes against the civilian population of Palestine in violation of all international principles and the Geneva conventions, but nothing has been done on the part of the world community to put an end to such atrocities, said the paper. The sprinkling of the poisonous powder in the residential areas of Hebron that caused the poisoning of the innocent civilians should not only be condemned by the United Nations, but the world community should take steps to end Israel's occupation of Hebron along with the rest of the occupied territories in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, demanded the daily. The latest crime, reminds the Arabs of a 1982 incident when the Israeli settlers used chemical substances to poison a large section of the population of Jenin on the West Bank, noted the paper. It said that the organised crimes being committed by the Israeli troops and the settlers with encouragement by the Shamir government is part of a continued Israeli campaign designed to liquidate the presence of Palestinian Arabs who have been waging their uprising to liberate their homeland from occupation, the paper said that the Palestinian people are determined to pursue the uprising and can by no means be deterred by such Israeli atrocities.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Future starts today

Maybe it is just the season but politically-dominated gossip in town is buzzing once again and rumours are that one former prime minister or another is making a come back in one way or another. Some observers attribute this to the usual Jordanian political phenomenon which brings several Jordanian statesmen or politicians left orbiting around the centre of power back or closer to the launching pad. Others conclude that the days of the Lower House of Parliament are fast approaching the end, something that augurs well for political reshuffles and the resurfacing of old faces or the emergence of new ones. Astute observers of the Jordanian political scene have also concluded that the feathers of the Lower House of Parliament have been ruffled sufficiently enough to make it an exhausted or worn out assembly not ready or capable of taking on traditional causes with which it had been associated right from the start when it assumed power. The interesting point being made by so many Jordanians in these contexts is that we are no different from our neighbours and must start looking forward to new elections that may bring forth a new dynamism on the Jordanian political scene and prepare ourselves politically and psychologically for that event as of now. After all, Israel will soon have new elections that may usher in a new leadership and bring new hope to the anemic peace process. The super of all remaining super

powers is also on the brink of having its own presidential contests even though the results are predictable, something that takes away much of the usual sting and excitement. So Jordanians are also looking forward to the next general elections when old or new faces will emerge, depending on the mood of the country in the coming months.

Linked with such projected changes in the country is the much acclaimed and talked about subject of restructuring the bureaucracy of the Royal Palace along more contemporary lines envisaging the creation of even more specialised departments to deal with the growing complex issues, be they domestic or international. And at the top of all such projections and expectations, there is a renewed talk about the confederacy idea linking the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Jordan. In defence of this rejuvenated, or rather resurrected, aspiration held dear by many sober and seasoned Jordanians is the notion that such a futuristic formulation would lend tremendous support to the peace process, especially the dimension dealing with the Jordanian-Palestinian situation vis-a-vis Israel. With growing hopes being pinned on Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin, to win the June Israeli general elections, many so-called sophisticated analysts are concluding that strengthening the bondages between the two banks would give the peace negotiations on the future of

the occupied Palestinian territories a boost that it critically lacks and needs.

To be sure, there are sizeable Arab fractions on both sides of the river Jordan who are not too happy about such a prospect for fear that their sense of nationalism would be dangerously eroded and maybe even dealt a death blow. But such a narrow-minded perspective never made permanent history in the past and cannot be expected to make one for the future. This is not to mention that their sensitivities will be crudely overruled or brushed aside. Rather, there is a growing need to delicately nurture, among such groups of people, a new perspective that has a more balanced and sophisticated list of priorities. 1993, therefore, looks more and more like a year that is potentially more eventful than all the past and even future years for Jordan and the region. From this point in time, the next year may look too far off. But in real and effectual terms it is just around the corner. How well our masterminds will stack the cards for it in preparation for the events that may unfold throughout, it is something that may be uppermost on the minds of the leadership in the Kingdom. One thing is sure, though: The fast approaching year calls for a new vision and a fresh start in almost all public domains. Whether we succeed in ushering in this new era in depth or not will surely determine our future for the decades to come.

A plan for sharing power in Jerusalem

By Moshe Amirav

Jerusalem is a city where one can feel the conflict in the air, its citizens live under a daily threat. Arabs must fear expulsion from the city, Christians fear their status as a diminishing minority. Nonreligious Jews fear being overrun by the ultra-Orthodox whose birth rate is three times the average. Israelis are afraid to pass through East Jerusalem. Fear is in the air.

I am an Israeli city councillor charged with carrying out Israel's policy in Jerusalem. Since 1967 this has been driven by two goals: first, to enlarge the Jewish majority in the city; second, to keep the city united. The government uses the tools of demography and geography to achieve its aims, but fails on both counts. The creation of a ring of Jewish neighbourhoods around the city in order to enlarge the Jewish majority actually had the opposite result. The city became a metropolis stretching from Ramallah in the north to Bethlehem in the south, and in this metropolitan area the Jewish majority has shrunk to 55 per cent. The Israeli government granted religious, cultural and economic autonomy to the Palestinians and even encouraged their contacts with the West Bank and Jordan. The outcome was, ironically, a process of "Palestinisation" and segregation, rather than "Israelisation" and integration. Today, Jerusalem is one of the most divided cities in the world.

A policy of discrimination

To this pattern of segregation, the government adds an unofficial policy of discrimination. This is expressed in the distribution of resources and permission to build housing. Palestinians make up 30 per cent of the population, yet the development budget for East Jerusalem is only five per cent of the whole city's. Urban renovation projects are initiated for Israelis only. Only ten per cent of all housing in Jerusalem over the past ten years was built for the Arabs, and their living conditions are far worse than those of the Israelis.

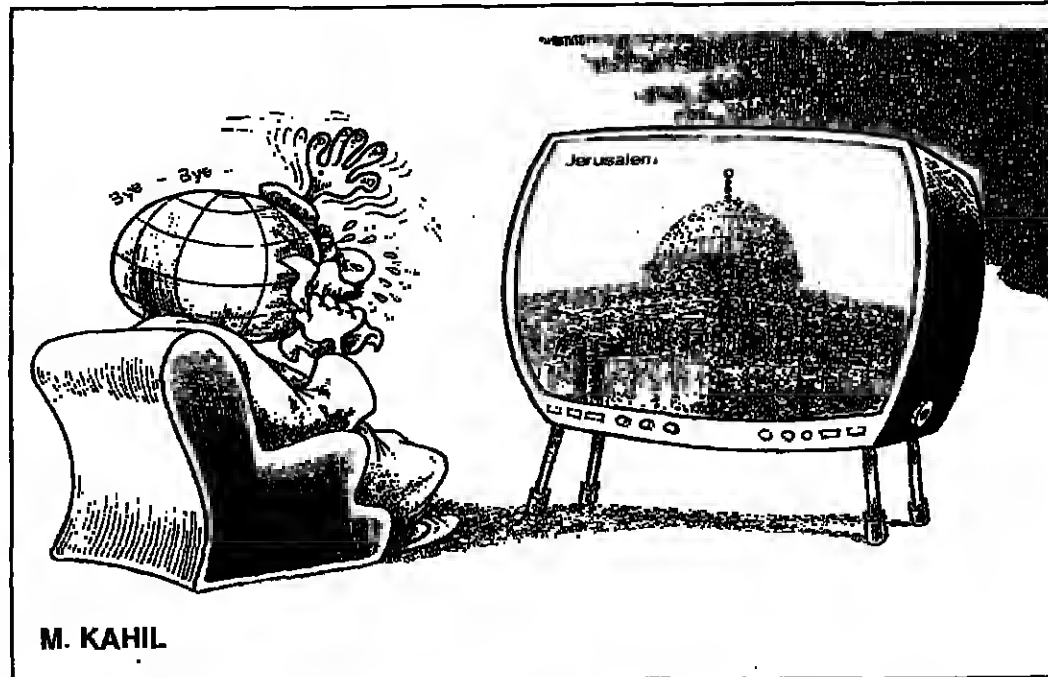
The intifada heated up the ethnic confrontation. Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem, admitted two years ago that coexistence had collapsed. For him, the champion of a united Jerusalem, it was a personal tragedy. For us, the Jews and Arabs in the city, it became a new, tragic reality. A city in which segregation, discrimination and confrontation exist to such an extent is far from being a united city.

In becoming Israelis, we Jews have lost some of the universalism which was so characteristic during the diaspora. The conflict in Jerusalem gives us a historic opportunity to integrate universalism with nationalism. In the Bible, two universal elements are consistently associated with Jerusalem: justice and peace. Yet what solution for the city's problems can be based on the universal principles of justice and peace? A vast number of plans attempting to solve Jerusalem's problems have all failed for this primary reason: they did not offer a solution based on a just compromise — so they could not promise peace. They failed to challenge the most difficult and controversial issue — the concept of sovereignty, the question of who Jerusalem belongs to.

Capital of two states?

Our concept assumes a two-state solution, where Jerusalem would serve as the capital for both states. It is based on functional power sharing of an expanded pie, so no one loses. We bypass the problem of sovereignty by breaking it into its elements. The city borders could be expanded to triple the land area and even out demographics, thus ending the race to achieve a majority. The city would then include about ten municipalities, half of them Jewish and half Arab. The municipalities would be granted some practical components of sovereignty, as well as symbolic ones, such as flags, currency and stamps. Israelis and Palestinians, as well as all Christians, Muslims and Jews, would be able to keep their symbols.

Authority over central planning, the judicial system, educa-



tion and health would be distributed between the parties. Israelis would be citizens of Israel, five to Israeli municipalities, vote for an Israeli council and mayor, and be subject to all Israeli rights and obligations. The Palestinians would live in a Palestinian municipality, be citizens of a Palestinian state, and vote for their own council and mayor. Some institutions would have delegates from each municipality and a rotating chairman. The holy places would be managed by delegates from all three faiths.

Turning Jerusalem into a metropolis three times the size of the current municipality would create new land resources and allow the city to improve its weak economy and poor living conditions. New land would allow the development of industry and housing, for both Arabs and Jews. New jobs would stop the exodus of those without work, which now approaches 10,000 a year.

Although it may look as if Israelis would lose half of their authority, they would actually rule over more land because of the expanded borders. They would gain, for the first time,

international legitimacy for their status in the city. The Palestinians, too, can only gain from this concept.

The concept is unprecedented in that it incorporates equality and parity into all its provisions. All elements of authority are divided on an equal basis. The new metropolis takes in almost equal areas of Israel and the West Bank and would include an equal number of Arab and Jewish residents, around 450,000 of each, thus ending the demographic race in Jerusalem of the past 80 years. The Palestinian towns of Bethlehem and Ramallah would be included as would the Israeli settlements of Ma'ale Adumim and Mevasseret. New economic opportunities would help level living standards. But the principle of equality and parity should alter the mentality of Arabs and Israelis which now blocks a solution.

This concept would not only solve the problem of Jerusalem, but contribute to a solution of the whole Arab-Israeli conflict. In other words, there can be no solution to the conflict without a solution to Jerusalem. If so, then why not make Jerusalem the

highest priority at the negotiating table? Jerusalem could serve as a model for the ability of Jews and Arabs to live together. If we solve the questions of legitimacy, sovereignty and coexistence in Jerusalem, we can solve them anywhere.

Overcoming Palestinian suspicions

This concept must evolve as parties on the ground establish the necessary preconditions. First, they must fight against the creation of facts which close off options. Second, they must build an infrastructure which would lay the groundwork for the concept's implementation. I would like to give two examples of what I mean. Two years ago, I made a proposal to develop three areas in northern Jerusalem, including the Shu'afat refugee camp. The idea was to let Palestinians initiate a development project which would create a new commercial area, build new housing units and improve the deplorable living conditions of the 7,000 refugees in the camp. All the funding was to come from international sources.

However, Palestinian political

leaders in East Jerusalem considered the project to be in collaboration with the Israeli authorities, and they were suspicious of a hidden motive behind eliminating the refugee problem, a problem they think can only be solved in the context of a permanent political solution. They rejected the plan. Six months ago, half the area in my proposal was included in a new plan drawn up by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon. It has now passed through the planning committee. Soon, 500 Israeli families will be settling in the area. This option is no longer open to the Palestinians.

This is only one of the many examples of the urgent need for Palestinians to participate in the daily life of the city. In two years' municipal elections will be held in Jerusalem. Teddy Kollek, who has ruled the city for almost 25 years, will not be running. This means more liberal forces will surely lose power to right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties. Palestinians, who should make up one third of the electorate, can radically change the outcome. Instead of boycotting the elections, as a symbolic protest against Israeli sovereignty, they should organise their own party and form a coalition with Labour and left-wing forces. They could decide the next mayor, determine the city government's policy which would reallocate funds to provide the basis of an infrastructure to pave the way for the realisation of our concept.

Compromise and justice are preconditions for peace. I have my own perceptions of my city, as a soldier, an Israeli and a Jew. I know I must move beyond the idea of "my city" to see "our city," and then I will be able, as an Israeli, to reach peace, and as a human being, to gain justice. This is the challenge Jerusalem presents for Israelis, Palestinians and the entire international community.

Moshe Amirav serves on the Jerusalem City Council, responsible for engineering, roads and transportation. He is also chairman of the committee on East Jerusalem. The above article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Growing gap in world incomes — richest billion people are 150 times wealthier than the poorest billion

Over the last thirty years, the gap between rich nations and poor ones has grown at an alarming rate, according to the Human Development Report 1992, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The report, third in an annual series, has been prepared by an independent team of economists under the guidance of Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, former finance minister of Pakistan and now special adviser to the UNDP administrator.

In 1960, the 20 per cent of the world's population that lived in nations with the highest per capita incomes were 30 times better off than the bottom 20 per cent. By 1989 that disparity had almost doubled so that they were nearly 60 times richer, according to the report.

But this calculation was made on national averages. Wide discrepancies exist within many countries. Comparing the one billion richest individuals in the world with the one billion poorest, that ratio would leap to at least 150 to 1.

The report holds the developing countries primarily responsible for their own lack of development. But it says that outside help has not been very effective either.

Several decades of development assistance have not narrowed the gap. Partially, this is because aid has not been adequately directed to the poorest of the poor nor to basic human development concerns. South Asia, which is home to nearly half

of the world's poorest people, receives \$5 per person in aid. Aid-receiving countries of the Middle East get \$55 per person even though per capita incomes there are three times higher, according to the report.

Another reason: developing countries are giving back more than they are getting. Prices for the commodities and raw materials they supply to the industrialised world have plunged. Debt service obligations resulted in net transfers from indebted developing countries totalling \$242 billion in the 1983-89 period, according to the report. Industrialised nations' immigration policies accommodate the rich, well-educated and skilled from developing countries, exacerbating the brain drain.

Coupled with this are opportunities denied. Tariff and non-tariff trade barriers imposed by industrialised countries cost developing countries about \$40 billion a year in lost export revenues. Immigration laws block

the flow of the unemployed or underemployed labourers to industrialised countries where job opportunities could significantly increase the current \$25 billion a year in worker remittances, the report says.

All told, developing countries

are being denied \$500 billion of market opportunities every year — ten times what they receive in foreign assistance.

Although developing nations have made substantial strides in basic education and life expectancy, they still lag significantly be-

hind in higher learning and technology. While 37 per cent of the population in the North receives university or similar training, only 8 per cent do so in the South. Scientific and technical personnel number only 9 per 1,000 in the South, compared to 81 per 1,000 in the North. Although the South has 80 per cent of the world's people, it has only five per cent of the world's computers and conducts only four per cent of global research.

The growing technological gaps between North and South "are self-reinforcing," according to the report. "The concentration of knowledge in the industrial countries means that further advances tend to occur there. This gives them a productivity advantage and consequently much higher returns on capital and labour. The higher profit rates in industrial countries enables them to attract yet more capital, even from developing countries. This facilitates still more investment in technology and widening of the gap."

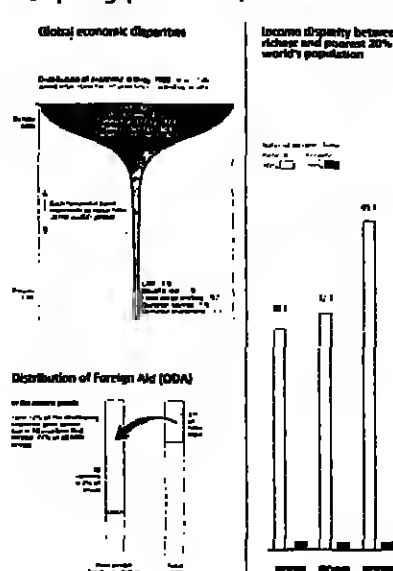
Wide disparities exist among developing countries, too. In the 1965-80 period, China and South-east Asia grew at an average 4 per cent per year, while Latin America and the Caribbean grew at a 3.8 per cent rate and the Arab States at 3 per cent. South Asia and Africa, however, lagged far

behind at a 1.5 per cent average. In the 1980's however, the developing-country gaps grew. East Asia and China continued strong growth and South Asia improved. But in Latin America and the Caribbean economic growth averaged minus 0.4 per cent and in Africa minus 1.7 per cent. For them, it was truly the "lost decade" for development.

Developing countries will have to acquire greater control over the expanding "knowledge industry," else they will languish in the backwaters of "low-value-added production," warns the report. This will require going beyond basic human survival concerns and investing heavily in all levels of human capital formation, particularly in technical and managerial skills.

But there is an important role for industrial countries, too. Foreign aid should be increased and reallocated, says the report. Major write-down of debt — which has multiplied 13-fold from \$100 billion in 1970 to \$1,350 billion in 1990 — is another essential ingredient. "But the most important contribution," says Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, the chief architect of the report, "will be to open the global markets to poor nations and poor people. They can earn their own livelihood if they are only given a fair chance."

Rich-poor gaps in income, markets and aid



U.S. group slams Saudi reforms

(Continued from page 1)

human rights. It does not, for example, ban extrajudicial killings, torture or cruel or inhuman punishment. This report points out the need for an explicit ban, as both Saudi law and practice in the past permitted their occurrence.

"The new laws do not ban discrimination on the basis of gender or religious beliefs. Neither do they protect free speech, assembly or association. Existing Saudi law sanctions discrimination against women, muzzles free speech and restricts public assembly. It also bans most forms of

association, including trade unions and political parties. No change is contemplated by the government in these areas."

"There is no remedy in the new laws for the notoriously deficient due process rules in the Saudi penal system. Based on (Islamic law) as interpreted by government-appointed clergy, the criminal code relied not on written statutes but on commentaries written in the middle ages. Defendants are not allowed legal representation in the courtroom, even when facing the death penalty. Their difficulties are compounded by the fact that many are uneducated... and that one third of the population are foreigners who are even less familiar with these esoteric tracts."

"Comments by Saudi leaders since the laws were issued have not indicated that the new statutes are a beginning towards a full process of democratisation. Rather, they appear to be the maximum concessions that the ruling family is willing to grant in response to both internal demands and external pressures."

Kurds seek to ensure elections

(Continued from page 1)

Kurdish autonomy within Iraq but is not aimed at pushing toward independence. Both Ankara and Tehran worry that independence, fever could inflame Kurds within their borders.

Kurdish guerrilla leader Masoud Barzani, one of the two leading candidates for the post of paramount leader, had asked the German government for technical assistance with the elections during a recent visit there.

One of his advisers, Hoshyar Zebari, told reporters on Sunday the ink was manufactured by a German company called STK and was shipped through the interior ministry of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf.

The Kurds would send a sample of the ink back to Germany for analysis to determine if anyone had tampered with it, he added.

Kurdish sources said the ink had spent some days sitting at the docks in the Turkish port of Mersin.

Kurds on the street speculated that either Iraqi agents and Turkish military intelligence were behind the ink fiasco.

Jalal Talabani, Mr. Barzani's rival for leadership of the Kurds, told reporters the German embassy in Ankara insisted the ink was indelible, unless someone had tampered with it.

Baghdad has dismissed the elections as illegal. Ankara has said they threaten Iraq's integrity and could lead to violence.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that free elections in rebel-held northern Iraq this week could deepen a power vacuum and lead to violence.

Ankara says guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for a separate state for Turkey's 12 million Kurds since 1984, mount raids into Turkey from sanctuaries inside northern Iraq.

"If the PKK wants to fight the Turkish army or the Turkish state they can go inside Turkey," he said. "We will not allow them to continue to launch cross-border raids."

Turkey has launched a series of bombing attacks on suspected PKK bases in northern Iraq, including several on Thursday.

Iraqi Kurdish civilians, including women and children, are frequent victims of the Turkish raids.

"The only way to achieve border security is to repopulate the area with its original inhabitants," Mr. Barzani said. "We want to rehabilitate and reconstruct our villages but the turmoil along the border handicaps us."

Mideast still suffers chronic food gap — U.N.

CAIRO (R) — The Middle East is still unable to feed itself because of wars, harsh environment, disasters, poor infrastructures and misguided policies, the director of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said on Sunday.

Edouard Saouma told the FAO's biennial conference for the Near East region in such factors left food security as far away as ever.

"How long will this region have to depend on food imports? ... why are so many people still unable to achieve their food security?" he asked in an opening address to the conference. His remarks came in a statement received by Reuters in Cairo.

Despite liberalisation of agriculture in several countries, the Middle East imported nearly four times as much food as it exported in the 1980s, according to a recent report by the FAO.

Production in the Near East,

which groups 26 countries, rose by nearly 30 per cent in absolute terms over the decade but was outstripped by population growth.

Mr. Saouma said many countries in the area had had close trading relations with the communist governments of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and were affected by their collapse.

Another senior FAO official, Hassan Habibi, told the conference Afghanistan could become one of the region's bright spots, despite its current political problems.

The huge, sparsely populated country enjoys ample water resources which could eventually be tapped and exported to drier countries, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying, while calling for immediate aid to put Afghanistan's agriculture back on its feet.

The conference was due to last five days.

Qadhafi confident

(Continued from page 1)

against Libya on April 15 when Tripoli failed to meet the deadline for handing over the two men wanted for trial in the West.

Col. Qadhafi was quoted as saying Saturday that "the two Libyans were afraid to be tried in either the United States or Britain," especially after the incidents in Los Angeles and the episode of the Irish woman, accused of terrorism and released after 18 years in prison.

In the first reference, Col. Qadhafi was talking about the acquittal by a California court of white policeman who were filmed beating a black motorist.

Asked if he feared an attack, like the U.S. bombing in 1986, Col. Qadhafi replied: "I don't find such a fear justified. We're still under the banner of the United Nations."

In Cairo, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd insisted Sunday that Libya must hand over the two suspects and said Arab observers can attend their trial.

Mr. Hurd told reporters Britain considered "not sufficient" Libya's statement renouncing terrorism on Thursday.

"Libya needs to draw a line, clear and convincing line, under the past which contained support by Libya for terrorism with the tragic results described in resolutions," Mr. Hurd told a press conference at the British embassy overlooking the Nile.

"There needs to be a clear line before there can be a new chapter. What that line consists of is set out in the resolution. The heart of the matter is handing over for trial of two suspected persons against whom we have evidence," Mr. Hurd said.

"We are talking of a trial which

is fair, free of harassment, which observers can attend," Mr. Hurd said, adding that he had suggested to Esmaat Abdul Meguid, the Arab League's secretary general, that the suspects can be visited by Arab representatives during their trial.

"What we are seeking is not revenge but justice," Mr. Hurd said. "We have not an interest in removing the government of Libya. That is not our purpose. That is a matter for the people of Libya."

During his brief visit, Mr. Hurd met with President Hosni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Dr. Abdul Meguid. The main aim of the visit is to discuss Arab efforts to resolve Libya's crisis with the West.

"We are clear. A solution must lie in compliance by Libya with the Security Council resolution," Mr. Hurd said, referring to Resolution 731 which calls on Libya

to renounce terrorism and hand over the two suspects. He said Libya must hand over the suspects for trial, disclose facts about its past support of terrorism and pay compensation.

On Thursday, Libya renounced terrorism and said it was willing to hand over to Britain documents related to the Arab country's aid to the Irish Republic Army (IRA).

Mr. Hurd said that Libya offered to hand over "certain documents relating to Libyan support of the IRA, support which was denied in the past, which has caused great suffering."

"The island of Ireland is full today, people are killed week by week by explosives that came from Libya... explosives supplied by Libya to terrorists. Now they say we are abandoning all that and we will give you particulars," said Mr. Hurd.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Issue No. 8

Drawing of May 17, 1992

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 09391 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 1,200 each wins JD 120 09392 09391 09491 00391 19391 09390 09381 09291 08391 99391
Holder of ticket No. 41433 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 700 each wins JO 70 41434 41443 41533 42433 51433 41432 41423 41333 40433 31433
Holder of ticket No. 14943 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 400 each wins JO 40 14944 14953 14043 15943 24943 14942 14933 14843 13943 04943
Holder of ticket No. 12239 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 200 each wins JO 20 12230 12249 12339 13239 22239 12238 12229 12139 11239 02239
Holder of ticket No. 50142 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 150 each wins JO 15 50143 50152 40242 51142 60142 50141 50132 50042 59142 40142
Holder of ticket No. 93605 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 100 each wins JO 10 93606 93615 93705 94605 03605 93604 93695 93505 92605 83605
Holder of ticket No. 38167 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 80 each wins JO 8 38168 38177 38267 39167 48167 38166 38157 38067 37167 28167
Holder of ticket No. 91519 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JO 70 each wins JO 7 91510 91529 91619 92519 01519 91518 91509 91419 90519 81519

Ticket numbers	99632 92575 19770 14533	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	17089 84933 97461	win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

0903 2292 5398	Win JD 50 each	7563 1943 6204	Win JD 20 each
2241 0312 5113	Win JD 10 each	4984 7644	Win JD 20 each
9302 6242	Win JD 10 each	976 479 105 879	Win JD 5 each
54	Win JD 3 each	10,000 ticket ending with 3	Win JD 2 each

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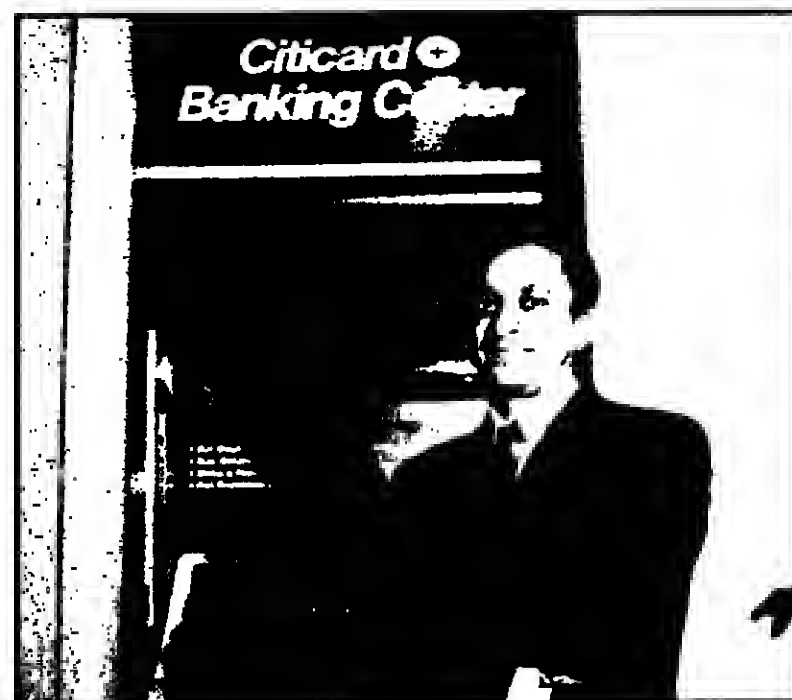
Fifty covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 261 996 765 296 712 Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 8 of May 2, 1992

Miss Hani Dabbas Amman, Worker Full Price JD 30,000	Abdul Hedi Shariq Sulaybiya, Worker Half Price JD 7,000	Imad Emour Rammala, Policeman Half Price JD 17,000	Sultan Darwish Sulaybiya, Student Half Price JD 17,000	Hassan Saleh Amman, Cook Half Price JD 12,500	Heidi Haddad Amman, Salesman Half Price JD 12,500	Samer Dabbas Amman, Employee JD 750
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America3 wins America's Cup

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — Bill Koch's America3, showing superior boat speed all the way, beat the Italian challenger Il Moro Di Venezia by 44 seconds to successfully defend the America's Cup for the San Diego Yacht Club.

"I want to say today we're proud to be Americans. This is a triumph for America and American technology and American teamwork," Koch said as his crew celebrated aboard his white-hulled boat on its triumphal procession from the finish line outside San Diego Bay to its happy compound on shore.

"It's a great day for us and certainly a wonderful day for me," said Koch's lead helmsman Buddy Melges, who became the first Olympic gold medalist to also skipper home a winning America's Cup boat.

Koch and Melges jokingly fought over the wheel as they crossed the line, poking fun at critics of America3's three-helmsman technique. Start specialist David Dellenbaugh was the third member of the wheel team.

It was the 26th successful defense in 28 cup finals, all of them by Americans. Only Australia

took the oldest trophy in sport away from the United States when John Bertrand did it in 1983. Dennis Conner won the next cup to bring it back to his southern California hometown in 1987.

The result at the end of the closest finals series in cup history — with the closest final race ever settled by a mere three seconds for the only Italian victory in race two — was the end of a dream for Italian billionaire Raul Gardini and his highly-paid American skipper Paul Cayard.

"We're disappointed that we didn't win," Cayard said. "I think we got beat by a better boat and a better team. It's not like it came down to the seventh race. It was a pretty convincing win on their part."

Before the race, Gardini said if he lost he would feel: "Now the story is over like a dream. When the dream is over, everything is over with all of its ingredients."

He said he was not sure he would challenge again if he lost. "To challenge again would be to start a new dream, and I'm not prepared for that."

Koch's team raced conservatively but well, relying on the superior boat speed their exper-

sive technology had given them. After a dead-even start, America3 evaded all attempts by Cayard to engage in a tacking duel, found the wind on the right and pulled away to an 18-second lead on the upwind first leg. The lead was never smaller than that.

Cayard made a good attempt on the upwind seventh leg, trimming the Americans' lead by 15 seconds to 24, but could not keep up on the downwind run home.

A crowd of several hundred people and a Mariachi band greeted the victorious America's Cup yacht Saturday, cheering Wildy as America3 swung into the dock loaded with its elated crew and their family members.

"Oh ungawa the Cubens got the power" chanted 20 of the team's support group as the 75-foot (23-metre) white boat glided into the dock while the Mariachi band played. "Cubens," as in America Cubed, has become the nickname for America3 syndicate members.

Six giant magnans of champagne were popped and the winning crew was doused in a bubbly, golden rain.

But almost everybody aboard was already soaking wet. They had jumped or been thrown overboard when the cup winners had pulled in to the south-western yacht club for their first of many victory receptions. Some of the crew had climbed their 110-foot (34-metre) mast and jumped into the water to cheers ricocheting across the water.

Gullit's international team mate Marco van Basten opened the scoring.

Gullit, absent with a knee injury for the past two months, inspired the A.C. Milan attack, struck in the first minute of the second half with a low shot which left Verona goalkeeper Attilio Gregori stranded.

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Daum seeks solitude after VFB's Bundesliga triumph

BONN (R) — VFB Stuttgart's outspoken coach Christoph Daum, nicknamed "the megaphone," sought solitude to relish the biggest moment of his career — winning the German League in dramatic style.

Daum, known for his provocative public statements, withdrew to an empty dressing room Saturday to shed a few tears after VFB's 2-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen.

A late goal from German World Cup defender Guido Buchwald gave the south German club the title on goal difference from Borussia Dortmund on a nail-biting final day of the season.

But as fans and players celebrated at the end, Daum relished the achievement of a life-long ambition on his own.

"It all overwhelmed me. I cried a bit," Daum said. "This title is proof that you can also achieve things by painstaking work. I'm not just a talker."

Behind the self-optimistic public figure, Daum is known as a great motivator. Still only 38, he

could develop into one of the most successful German coaches.

When Daum took charge of VFB in November 1990, the club were struggling in the relegation zone.

He gave them the confidence to clinch the fourth championship in their history. But the title was not safe until Buchwald's 86th minute winner.

VFB, Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt had started the last day with the same number of points, with Eintracht expected to succeed because of their superior goal difference.

The Frankfurt side's hopes collapsed with a 2-1 defeat at Hansa Rostock. Although Dortmund sealed two points with a 1-0 win at Duisburg, their inferior goal tally put them behind VFB.

As he celebrated the victory with his team in the streets of Stuttgart Sunday, Daum knew VFB, who reached the final of the UEFA Cup in 1989, would go into next season's European Cup without their key midfield player Mathias Sammer.

Pine Bluff comes from outside to win in Preakness

BALTIMORE (AP) — Pine Bluff came from three-wide at the top of the stretch to catch Alydeed 50 metres from the finish and pull away to a three-quarter length victory in the Preakness Stakes.

Pine Bluff, sent off as the lukewarm favourite at 7-2 after a poor finish in the Kentucky Derby two weeks ago, made sure there would be no U.S. thoroughbred Triple Crown winner this year, rallying down the middle of the stretch under Chris McCarron for the victory.

Kentucky Derby winner Lil E. Tee finished a distant fifth. Trainer Lynn Whiting said about an hour after the race that Lil E. Tee had bled from the lungs.

McCarron got the mount on Pine Bluff because Craig Perrell, who rode the colt to a fifth-place finish in the derby, opted to ride the lightly raced Alydeed.

Casual Lies, second in the derby, finished third in the field of 14 3-year-olds while, derby third-place finisher Dance Floor came in fourth.

Alydeed never was worse than second after passing the finish line the first time and took the lead with a half mile (800 metres) remaining.

Midway through the stretch, it looked like he was going to win, but then Pine Bluff, who had moved into third with a quarter

mile (400 metres) to go, added a final burst.

"Dynamite," the 37-year-old McCarron said of his second Preakness victory. He also won with Alysheba in 1987.

McCarron had Pine Bluff fifth turning for home.

"I took a quick glance behind me at the top of the lane to see where Lil E. Tee was," he said. "When I didn't even see him I thought 'hot diggity dog.'"

Pine Bluff, who races in the colours of John Ed Anthony's Loblolly Stables, carried 126 pounds (57 kilograms) over 1.36 miles (1.19 kilometres) on a track labelled fast in 1 minute, 55.3-5 seconds.

It was the first Preakness victory for Anthony, a 53-year-old Arkansas lumberman.

In beating Alydeed, Pine Bluff returned \$9, \$5.80 and \$4.40 to win, place and show on a \$2 bet.

Alydeed, who finished 1 1/2 lengths ahead of casual lies, paid \$7.60 and \$3.80.

Casual Lies, three-quarters of a length ahead of Dance Floor, was \$4.20 for show.

Lil E. Tee, ridden by Pat Day, was never in serious contention.

"He just didn't have a lot of fire in him in the lane," Whiting said. "I thought he'd finish a little stronger than he did, certainly. The horse did everything OK."

Mansell claims record 5th successive Grand Prix win

IMOLA, Italy (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell claimed a Formula One record Sunday when he won his fifth successive race since the start of this season in the San Marino Grand Prix.

Mansell, driving a Williams, led from pole position to the checkered flag, in one of the most complete drives of his career.

He was followed home by his team mate Riccardo Patrese for the fourth time in this season's five races.

Brazilian Ayrton Senna set the previous record of four successive wins last year.

Mansell's win was the 26th of his Formula One career and lifts him clear of fellow-Briton Jim Clark and Austrian Niki Lauda who each won 25 races.

He became the first driver to win five successive races in a year since Clark in 1965, Australian

Jack Brabham also performed the feat in 1960.

Mansell now has 50 points and is 26 points clear of second-placed Patrese. The race was a procession for the Williams pair whose superiority was never threatened on a scorching hot day at the Auto Dromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari.

Defending champion Senna finished third in a McLaren ahead of Briton Martin Brundle who scored his first points of the season by finishing fourth for Benetton.

Italian Michele Alboreto came home fifth in a footwork with compatriot Pierluigi Martini finishing sixth in a Dallara.

Only 14 of the 26 starters were still driving at the end of a predictable race which will be remembered only for Mansell's historic achievement.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HERSH
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JUST A SIMPLE OLD HAND

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 8 4

♥ A 9 7 6 3

♦ A 10

♣ K Q 8 6

WEST

♠ J 7 3 2

♥ 10 5

♦ K J 8 5 3 2

♣ K Q 6 4

EAST

♠ K Q 9 8

♥ Q J 4

♦ A

♣ 9

SOUTH

♠ A 5

♥ K 8 2

♦ 9

♣ J 10 7 5 4 3 2

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠

3 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠

5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

It is fascinating to watch a bridge hand unfold. Take this seemingly simple contract of five clubs, reached after a competitive auction.

At first glance, it might seem that declarer has a loser in each suit except diamonds. The only possible loser that might be dodged is in hearts, and to accomplish that declarer will have to strive for an endplay.

Suppose declarer wins the opening spade lead and immediately tries back a spade. West follows the max-

imum of second-hand low and East wins the trick. Unless East returns a trump, West will be trapped eventually.

Assume East shifts to a diamond. Declarer wins in dummy, ruffs a diamond and cashes the ace and king of hearts before exiting with a trump. In with the ace of clubs, West can return only a spade or a diamond. Either permits declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the losing heart from hand.

A good defender in the West seat will spot the looming endplay. It can be averted easily enough by going up with the jack of spades at trick two, cashing the ace of clubs, then exiting with a red suit. The defenders now have two tricks in the hand, and South has no way to avoid losing a heart for down one.

However, declarer did not do a good job of concealing the line of play to be adopted. Life for the defender is far more difficult if South allows the queen of spades to win the first trick. East is faced with a crucial decision at trick two. A club to the ace will allow the defender to triumph—West can no longer be thrown in and East-West will collect the three tricks that are their due. But any other return allows declarer to spin a web that will entrap West and land the contract.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't take any chances in driving, conversations or emotional encounters with strangers since others are acting in haste and holding odd thoughts. Satisfy philosophical interests by reading.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make a point during the day to consider what your own clan expects of you and put in effect in a well rounded fashion, then you can do what your mate desires.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fine day to get into whatever usual routines that require a greater amount of efficiency and then you will be able to arrange family affairs as you wish.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever particular attention needs to be devoted to business matters is fine for activity during the day while tonight is good for enjoying public pleasures.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can start the week right by bringing to yourself personal wishes with considerable ease, then tonight study how to advance practical benefits.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The various specifics connected with any course of action important to you can be planned in the morning then put them in motion tonight with some gusto.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well what compan-

ions you want to be close to in the days ahead and arrange to see them after which you can enjoy romance with attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider where you stand with those in power and do what will increase their support and approval of you after which join friends at a social group.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a chance to round out your knowledge of a new project that very much appeals to you, then you see how to make it work in the public eye.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get a better awareness of your assets and obligations now and systematize them better, then tonight you can be off to some interesting new appeal.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be sure you listen to understand just what a conventional partner has to say before answering and then you both know how to perform agreements made.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the time for you to analyze all phases of your activities for you greatly improve them, then do what most delights you in the world of activity.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think over the amusements you like the most and arrange to enjoy them after which you can get into the down to earth expression you need for your occupation.

THE BETTER HALF.

Saudis try to improve management of liquidity

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Saudi Arabia has introduced a reverse repurchase facility for government treasury bills to try to improve management of short-term liquidity in its inter-bank money market, Riyadh-based bankers said Sunday.

Treasury heads of the kingdom's 12 commercial banks generally welcomed the step, which will provide banks with a new mechanism for disposing of excess cash and translate into a floor for rates on overnight funds.

"We welcome the move because it's a big step forward to a more sophisticated, manageable financial system here," said one. "It will have a stabilising effect on day to day money and it should add stability to the entire money market structure," he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

The step complements an existing repurchase facility for Saudi treasury bills, through which banks can raise money by selling to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) the securities at a set rate under an agreement to buy them back later.

Dealers said SAMA set the rate for the reverse facility on

Saturday and Sunday at 3-1/2 per cent, which gives a spread of 50 basis points with the repurchase "window" of four per cent. Some bankers had expected a spread of only 15 basis points.

There was little immediate impact on short-term rial deposit rates, which at 3-3/4, 3-1/2 per cent were already trading within the range determined by SAMA.

But bankers said the move would keep overnight rates from fluctuating outside a narrow 1/2 per cent trading band.

They said it would also link rial interest rates more closely with the dollar, because SAMA was unlikely to pay more for Saudi rial liability than it was earning on dollar deposits overseas.

In the past, rial inter-bank rates have fluctuated sharply in response to changes in liquidity. Banks would normally sell unwanted rials for dollars at the end of each day.

Some bankers said the combined effect of the repurchase and reverse repurchase facility would help stem the flow of currency out of the kingdom through the banking system.

Others predicted the opposite. "If SAMA wants to keep money in the country, they should make it uneconomic for banks to invest outside ... they should let rial rates drift above dollar interest rates," one banker said.

Bankers estimate the net foreign assets of Saudi Arabia's twelve commercial banks at around \$26 billion.

Saudi officials say private investors have repatriated an estimated \$11 billion sent abroad after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, but SAMA also wants to encourage banks to bring more of their money into the kingdom.

Last November Saudi Arabia replaced 2.7 billion rials worth of weekly issues of bankers' security deposit accounts with four, 13, and 26-week treasury bills to enable the government to tap domestic liquidity.

It began borrowing from foreign and domestic banks in May 1991 to help smooth out cash flow problems caused by Gulf war spending.

The amount of treasury bills issued each week has been cut to 1.5 billion rials from initial offerings of two billion.

As part of a package of economic reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last May, Egypt has freed interest rates but has not changed related legislation.

Ministers and experts, he told reporters the new draft law would be presented to parliament shortly.

Mr. Sharif said the new banking law would strengthen the role of the central bank in supervising commercial banks, free its hand in approving bank mergers and

balt its duties in setting interest rates.

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Nearly 4b people live in conditions of human suffering

WASHINGTON (R) — The gap between rich and poor countries has widened and 73 per cent of the world's population, 3.9 billion people, live in conditions of human suffering, a private group reported Sunday.

The Population Crisis Committee's second human suffering index also found a strong relationship between high rates of population growth and hardship.

The 1991 index shows that an appalling three-quarters of the world's people live in countries where human suffering is the rule, rather than the exception," committee vice president Sharon Camp said.

She noted that in the poorer countries, per person income fell in the past five years, while the birth rate rose.

"Slowing population growth would help these countries buy the time they need ... to create real economic opportunity for the poor majority," she said.

The index looked at 10 measures, life expectancy, childhood immunisations, daily calorie supply, clean drinking water, secondary school enrollment, gross national product, inflation, political freedom, civil rights and communications technology to assess the quality of life.

Mozambique, Somalia, Afghanistan, Haiti and Sudan were the five worst countries in all categories and all had population growth rates of close to three per cent. At that rate their populations would double in under 30 years.

Denmark had the minimum human suffering and a growth rate of zero per cent. It was

followed by the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Norway, Australia, the United States, Germany, Austria and Luxembourg.

Children born in 1992 in Denmark would live on average 27 years longer than those born in Mozambique where life expectancy is 48 years.

A newborn in Mozambique has a one in seven chance of dying before its first birthday while in Denmark only one of 100 die before a year old.

Over 95 per cent of the world's population growth has been in the poorest countries, Ms. Camp said.

The Population Crisis Committee advocates greater support by the world's developed countries for family planning to help improve conditions in the world's poorest countries.

Ms. Camp said it was no surprise that the group's second human suffering index report found little progress around the world in the past five years.

As expected, the world map of human suffering showed the least suffering in North America, Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand and the greatest in Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and South America.

The countries of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union were placed in the moderate suffering group.

Information for the index was based on previously published reports from the United Nations, the World Bank and a private group, Freedom House, which keeps track of world political conditions.

Arabs slam proposed EC environment tax

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf Arab states, angered by European Community (EC) plans to impose an environmental tax that could substantially reduce their oil exports to Europe, said Saturday the tax would disrupt relations.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, at the opening session of a conference of Gulf and EC ministers, led an uncompromising attack on the tax, saying it was no more than a device to raise extra revenue for EC governments.

Gulf states say the European Commission's proposal Wednesday to impose a \$3 tax on every imported barrel of crude oil from next year, rising to \$10 in the year 2000, would discriminate against oil, their principal source of income.

European delegates said some EC ministers argued the proposed energy tax, which is meant to stabilise harmful carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, was an important element in international efforts to combat global warming.

Sheikh Nazer said the EC already taxed oil heavily while it subsidised producing coal, the other source of carbon dioxide.

One senior Arab delegate said the tax, which is conditional on similar action by other industrialised nations like the United States, was unlikely to see the light of day.

But even considering such a tax was seen as an unfriendly act by the EC, he added.

Sheikh Nazer put government revenues from taxes on petroleum in the 12 EC states last year at \$210 billion, more than three times the \$64 billion the producing states earn from oil exports.

"Our concern is that the proposed tax is yet another form of

excise tax intended to raise government receipts," he said.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, whose country is among the least enthusiastic for the tax within the EC, told a news conference:

"It became clear that the Gulf states, as far as their economy is concerned, are anxious about the proposal. We have reached no decision ... and obviously the views of our friends in the Gulf will be taken into account before we do so."

Opening the talks on behalf of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Salem Al Sabah said: "I wish to express our serious concern over this matter, which will have negative consequences for our mutual interests and the future of our people."

Asked what steps the EC states might take against the EC if the tax were imposed, another senior Gulf delegate said it was too early to consider retaliatory action.

"We are still in a talking phase. The main thing is to make clear to the Europeans that such a tax would be harmful to their very substantial interests in the Gulf," he said.

The EC maintains that the tax would not affect the competitive position of oil in European markets.

But Gulf officials predict it would reverse an expected surge in oil demand over the next 10 to 15 years, badly hitting the Gulf's economic prospects. Instead of rising some 40 per cent, Gulf oil exports could fall some 15 per cent, they said.

Delegates said Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal had

stayed away from the talks because he was recuperating from a recent operation.

But they said that by sending Oil Minister Nazer to head the delegation, Saudi Arabia was sending a strong signal that the proposed tax was its principal concern at the talks.

Economic issues dominated the talks, the first since the end of the Gulf war and the third in a series starting in 1988.

Iran's oil minister joined Gulf Arab neighbours opposed to a proposed European environmental tax on oil, warning in an interview published Sunday of difficulties for oil producers and supply disruptions.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told the Abar newspaper that Iran opposed any move that would disturb the oil market.

"The plan by the U.S. and the European Community to levy taxes on oil products will affect oil prices and will create difficulties for oil-producing countries in their investments," Mr. Aqazadeh told the daily.

Although Mr. Aqazadeh referred to the United States, President Bush has rejected setting targets for carbon dioxide emissions in advance of this summer's environmental summit, despite pleas from American environmentalists.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Mr. Aqazadeh said in the Abar interview that the tax would produce "shocks in the world energy market."

"He noted that the plan of the industrialised countries will pose a threat on the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries," said the dispatch monitored in Cyprus.

Egypt prepares new banking law

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will introduce a new banking law to reform legislation in line with its drive towards a free market economy, Information Minister Safwat Sharif said.

Speaking after a five-hour meeting with President Hosni Mubarak and top economic

ministers and experts, he told reporters the new draft law would be presented to parliament shortly.

Mr. Sharif said the new banking law would strengthen the role of the central bank in supervising commercial banks, free its hand in approving bank mergers and

balt its duties in setting interest rates.

As part of a package of economic reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last May, Egypt has freed interest rates but has not changed related legislation.

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ADB head argues against CFA devaluation

DAKAR (R) — The president of the African Development Bank (ADB) said it would serve no useful purpose to devalue the CFA franc, the currency which links France and 14 African countries.

"The idea of devaluation to achieve greater competitiveness strikes me as highly debatable," bank President Babacar Ndiaye told the Senegalese weekly Sud Hebdo in an interview.

The CFA, used in 13 former French territories and equatorial Guinea, has been pegged at the same rate against the French franc since 1948. Many economists favour a devaluation to curb imports and enhance the local value of exports.

Devaluations were not remedies for the structural weaknesses of African economies and would generate inflation, he said.

"You have to look at what happens when one devalues the currency of an economy whose industrial sector is slight and whose consumer goods are mostly imported," he pointed out.

"Enterprises have no choice but to increase their prices in line with the devaluation and a new devaluation becomes necessary in the search for greater competitiveness," he said.

Leaders of CFA countries, who fear that a devaluation will weaken their links with France, point to high inflation in countries such as Nigeria, where currencies float almost freely against hard currencies. Such inflation has fuelled the kind of price riots witnessed in Nigeria last week.

Mr. Ndiaye said if there were a devaluation of the African franc it would have to vary according to the state of national economies, thus destroying regional monetary unions.

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Bribe-takers prosper in Russia

MOSCOW (R) Russian bureaucrats are finding a host of new opportunities to extract bribes and flout the law now that the new post-Soviet government is relaxing strict state controls.

Yuri Boldyrev, head of a new watchdog body set up to keep tabs on government officials, says the extent of bribery "stretches beyond the limits of the imagination."

Russia's centralised economic infrastructure and unwieldy bureaucracy are still run on the principle of "proizvol" — an untranslatable word which roughly means the right of ranking officials to ignore the law and do whatever they want.

"Until now, solving almost any important problems in the social and economic sphere has depended mainly on the use of 'proizvol' by the official in charge," Mr. Boldyrev told a news conference last week.

He said that relaxing old central government controls had only aggravated the problem.

Once-submissive apparatchiks up and down the hierarchy, whose sweeping powers are limited by few legal restrictions but who used to be kept in check by their bosses, are now taking the law into their own hands.

"The size of 'proizvol' in Russia stretches beyond the limits of the imagination, and so do the dimensions of bribery," said Mr. Boldyrev, whose Russian Federation president's control body was formed last August to control the professional standards of government officials.

Bribery anecdotes abound in the Russian capital.

Moscow security police chief Yevgeny Savostyanov, speaking on a television chat show this month, told the story of a senior

local government official who had been caught red-handed accepting a large "backhand."

He said the official took 500,000 rubles (about \$50,000, or eight years' salary) to authorise the lease of a plot of land in his Moscow district for the construction of a trade centre.

But, he added, the official was immune from criminal proceedings because he was a deputy in the Moscow city parliament. This week, the city parliament will formally decide whether to waive his immunity or let his off scot-free.

But bribe-takers can only be given prison sentences if they are reported by two witnesses. Most whispered deals in the corridors of power are done too discreetly for detection.

Mr. Boldyrev said the only way to cut down on kick-backs was to eliminate "proizvol" and pay officials enough to remove temptation.

"As long as 'proizvol' persists, there will always be officials ready to use it against the people," he said.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov argues that bribery, an age-old Russian tradition, is not a serious threat to Mr. Yeltsin's plans to move from communism to capitalism.

"I prefer bribery, which is inevitable in the early stages of the free market economy, to the strangulation on the spirit of free enterprise which existed before,"

World Bank: Trade should not be environmental weapon

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Sunday that using trade barriers as a weapon to force countries to modify practices that damage the environment probably causes more problems than it solves.

In its annual World Development Report, the bank said there were more direct ways to combat deforestation, soil erosion, use of pesticides and industrial pollution.

"Liberalised trade fosters greater efficiency and higher productivity and may actually reduce pollution by encouraging the growth of less-polluting industries and the adoption and diffusion of cleaner technologies," the report said.

Developing countries have accused richer countries of restricting imports that compete with their own industries by suggesting the products do not adhere to certain environmental standards.

The bank said the developing countries have a case.

"When countries (typically) use trade policy to impose their environmental standards, the effect is to protect domestic producers from foreign competition," the report said.

The report said that modifying trade policies to deal with environmental problems may actually worsen degradation of the environment.

It dismissed the idea that some

countries, by lowering their environmental standards, lure so-called "dirty" industries away from countries with higher standards, providing what amounts to pollution havens.

The report said the opposite may be true. Since it is cheaper for multinational corporations to use the same technologies as they do in industrial countries, these companies can be a potent source of environmental improvement.

"Foreign investment flows do not shift dramatically towards locations with lax environmental standards," the report said.

It cautioned against the idea of using built-in trade sanctions in international environmental agreements to help force compliance. While such an approach could be useful in some cases, it is not without problems.

The report noted that the ban on trade in ivory to protect the African elephant involves difficult tradeoffs and some countries believe that the ban will actually benefit poachers since it will lead to higher prices.

But it said that so far the evidence indicates that "ivory prices have fallen and poaching has declined since the ban became effective."

The World Bank also said that global development and protection of the environment must go hand in hand to improve the living standards of the poor and decrease pollution and deforestation.

"The poor are both victims and

agents of environmental damage," the bank said in its annual World Development Report.

The document was issued ahead of next month's earth summit in Brazil at which the world's leaders hope to set an agenda for protecting the environment.

"Without adequate environmental protection, development is undermined without development, resources will be inadequate for needed investments and environmental protection will fail," the bank said.

The report said industrial countries must keep their own houses clean and they have a crucial role to play in helping improve and protect the environment of the developing world.

Global warming and ozone depletion are the responsibility of the rich countries since they stem from high consumption levels by the most fortunate financially, the bank said.

The report makes clear the bank believes more development is needed so the poorest countries can earn enough money to make changes.

Bank officials told reporters that poverty is one of the main forces pushing people into areas of the rain forest where slash and burn farming techniques are destroying the ecology.

"Progress will be quite impossible without more aggressive policies to reduce poverty," Andrew Steer, principal author of the report, said.

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Battle raging for Karabakh border town, Azeris say

BAKU, Azerbaijan (R) — Armenia has launched a major two-pronged attack on a strategic town bordering the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan's defence ministry said Sunday.

"Armenian forces are attacking from two directions," ministry spokesman Azad Ali-Zadeh told reporters. "The battle is still raging, but that is all I can tell you at the moment."

He said the attack was on the town of Lachin, just outside Nagorno-Karabakh's borders. If Armenia took control of the battered settlement it could create a land-bridge between its own territory and that of Karabakh.

The Azeri opposition Popular Front took power this weekend and deposed President Ayzat Muttalibov amidst growing domestic chaos sparked by military defeats in Nagorno-Karabakh, ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923 but now effectively controlled by its Armenian majority.

The Defence Ministry said

Armenian forces had entered Azerbaijan overnight and had taken the village of Tursu, just north of Lachin.

Front spokesman Oktai Gasimov said earlier that the Lachin defenders had blown the main bridges on the road to Shusha, the last Azeri stronghold inside Karabakh which fell to Armenian forces last week, to slow down a possible attack.

Mr. Ali-Zadeh said Azeri forces had been pushed back to a small area outside Lachin, in the narrow corridor of Azeri territory which separates Armenia from Karabakh.

"The situation has been made worse because, thanks to the events in Baku, some units tried to leave Lachin and return to the capital," he said.

A disastrous defeat at the Nagorno-Karabakh town of Shusha on May 9 sparked a week of political chaos in Azerbaijan. Mr. Muttalibov briefly returned to power after two months out of office, before being overthrown Friday when Popular Front forces

stormed Baku's parliament. More than 1,500 people have been killed in four years of bitter fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, one of the most intractable of the ethnic and territorial disputes to break out in the former Soviet Union.

Armenia is one of six former Soviet states which signed a joint defence treaty last week, obliging other signatories including powerful Russia to support it militarily if the Karabakh conflict spreads into full-scale war.

Azerbaijan did not join the defence union created at a meeting in Uzbekistan of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an 11-nation grouping of ex-Soviet republics.

Both the Popular Front and Defence Ministry flatly denied a report carried by ITAR-TASS News Agency that 1,000 Azeris in tanks tried to retake Shusha from Lachin Saturday.

"That is technically and physically impossible. We are defending Lachin to our last forces," Mr.

Ali-Zadeh said.

The Popular Front also said Agdam and other towns surrounding Karabakh were also coming under heavy shelling. They had no casualty figures.

Mr. Muttalibov is widely believed to have fled Baku Friday with former National Security Minister Ilhusein Huseinov. Mr. Gasimov said he was sure the two men would be found and put on trial for breaking the country's constitution.

Armed men believed to be Muttalibov supporters Saturday raked the Popular Front headquarters with automatic gunfire. Mr. Gasimov said seven men had been detained after the attack, in which nobody was injured, and had been handed over to the Interior Ministry.

On Sunday a crowd of 3,000 people gathered outside the parliament building in blazing sunshine, listening to speeches condemning Mr. Muttalibov and praising the Popular Front. Azeri television broadcast non-stop coverage of the meeting.

Aung San Suu Kyi, fit but frail, stands firm

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's Nobel Prize-winning dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, fit but frail after nearly three years' house arrest, will not accept the military junta's terms for her freedom, her British husband said Sunday.

"She never set any terms or conditions for her departure from Burma. The offer was repeatedly made to release her if she went into exile. She never even discussed the matter because she says it is not negotiable," said Michael Aris after his first reunion with his wife in more than two years.

"Since the day she began her endeavours she resolved to stay and see it through, come what may," Mr. Aris, a visiting professor at Harvard University, said in a statement to reporters in Bangkok after returning from a two-week stay in Rangoon.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 46, the head of Burma's main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), has been held under arrest in her home beside Rangoon's Inya Lake since July, 1989.

She was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for standing up to what the Nobel Committee called "a regime characterised by brutality."

Mr. Aris said she remained sceptical about recent political developments in Burma but was keeping an open mind.

After naming General Than Shwe its new leader last month, the junta began releasing political prisoners and has pledged moves that may lead to an eventual transition from military rule.

"She is not yet quite convinced that this is the beginning of genuine reforms," Mr. Aris said. "But she is prepared to give the authorities the benefit of the doubt."

The NLD won a May, 1990

general election by a landslide but instead of allowing it to govern, the military arrested most of its leaders.

Some senior NLD officials are among 102 dissidents freed so far. The junta has given no indication that it will agree to Aung San Suu Kyi's unconditional release.

Western diplomats estimate the junta has arrested thousands of opponents since taking power in 1988 by crushing a nationwide movement for democracy.

Without giving details, Mr. Aris said the conditions of his wife's house arrest had improved since January. However, she has not been allowed to leave her compound in Rangoon since her detention and has been held incommunicado except for visits by a maid and a military intelligence officer.

Mr. Aris was last allowed into Burma to see his wife in December, 1989.

"In the two and a half years since I saw Suu things have not been easy for her," Mr. Aris said. He said she did not want to complain because she knew many of her supporters had suffered more.

"Suu's health seems to be good although she is not particularly robust," Mr. Aris said. "More important are her spirits, which remain as ever indomitable."

He said she had had to sell off some of her furniture to support herself in detention and passed her time reading books, philosophy, literature, Buddhist writings and listening to the radio.

Mr. Aris said his wife had decided to use the money from the Nobel Award and other prizes to establish "the Burma Trust for Health and Education."

He said she had accepted an invitation from the president of the 1992 Olympic Committee to



Aung San Suu Kyi

write a speech to mark the arrival in Spain of the Olympic torch next month.

The speech would be read by their eldest son, Alexander, he said.

Alexander delivered a statement from his mother to Washington Thursday that called for reconciliation in Burma "beyond token gestures of appeasement."

"Today the world is watching Burma... to see whether the rights of citizens to participate fully in political process of their country will be conceded whether the will of the people as expressed through free and fair elections will truly be respected whether there will be serious moves to protect human rights by promoting the rule of law and by establishing an independent judiciary," it said.

Mr. Aris gave reporters copies of the statement written in Aung San Suu Kyi's handwriting and dated May 12.

Mr. Aris said a firm arrangement had been made for the couple's two sons to visit Burma soon and that he hoped to be able to arrange regular visits in future.

He said he had wanted to stay longer but had to return to the United States for his students' examinations.



Estranged U.K. royal couple appear in public

WINDSOR, England (R) — The estranged Duke and Duchess of York appeared together in public Saturday for the first time since their separation as removal vans arrived at their mansion to remove her belongings. The two looked relaxed at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and at one point Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth, appeared to put his arm around the shoulder of his flame-haired wife, known as Fergie. It was the couple's first public appearance together since Buckingham Palace announced on March 19 that lawyers had started negotiations to end their six-year marriage. The Duchess returned a week ago from a four-week holiday without her husband, including trips to Thailand and the Indonesian island of Bali, and royal gossip said she might be ready to try to revive the marriage. But removal vans arrived at their Sunninghill Park Mansion and took away her belongings. Buckingham Palace referred all inquiries to the March 19 statement which made clear that nothing more would be said until lawyers' discussions were complete. "In the meantime we are not commenting on any aspect of their relationship," a spokesman said. He refused to confirm that the duchess had taken a 12-month lease on a six-bedroom house, whose last occupant was a Nigerian chief. Workmen were busy at the house this week, under the eyes of police, for what agents handling its rental believed was the imminent arrival of the duchess and her two daughters.

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Hebridean island goes up for sale

FORT WILLIAM, Scotland (R) — Eigg, one of Scotland's most historic and rugged islands, is up for sale with a price tag of more than £1 million (\$1.8 million), real estate agents said. The island in the inner Hebrides comes complete with two churches, a school, a shop, a post office and a population of 70 including a doctor, postman and schoolteacher. The main house, Eigg Lodge, is so sheltered by the islands of Muck and Rum that it is surrounded by a sub-tropical garden. A Scottish court ruled last year after a lengthy battle between the Laird of Eigg, former Olympic bobsleigher Keith Schellenberg, and his divorced wife that the island should be sold. Eigg was inhabited in the Stone Age and was a centre of the Viking occupation of the Hebrides. In the 16th century, its population of 400 was massacred in a clan feud.

Government reassures Britons on skin cancer scare

LONDON (R) — Britain's chief medical officer has told sun-loving Britons worried about skin cancer that there was no ozone hole over the country and they need not forgo a golden tan as long as they took sensible precautions. The first hot days of summer this week prompted a skin cancer scare. Environmentalists said the risks were now higher because man-made chemicals were destroying atmospheric ozone which helps to stop ultraviolet rays reaching exposed skin. But Dr. Kenneth Calman said: "There is no ozone hole over the United Kingdom and none developed in the northern hemisphere this spring, despite speculation to the contrary." Calman insisted the main cancer risk factor was bad sunbathing habits and he advised Britons to use a suitable sunscreen product, tan gradually and avoid sunburn.

Fresh air thrown on German love life

HAMBURG, German (R) — Germans have a reputation for liking the great outdoors — and that apparently extends to their love life. A survey in the News Revue magazine said nearly one in two German men and women (48 per cent) fantasised about having sex on the beach or in the woods and 35 per cent had already done so in the open air. The survey by the GESIS Research Institute showed that Germans were also adventurous in other areas of their sex lives. Fifty-two per cent said they had made love under a shower, 45 per cent in the bathtub, 19 per cent on a kitchen table, 11 per cent in a disco, six per cent in a lift, and in a response which could account for the lack of drive-in movie theatres in Germany, only 31 per cent of women dreamed of making love in a car compared to 53 per cent of men.

'Weinberger may face Iran-contra charges'

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger may be charged with perjury unless he gives evidence implicating former President Ronald Reagan in the Iran-contra scandal, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The attempt to get a former cabinet member to turn in his commander-in-chief occurred a few days ago as independent counsel Lawrence Walsh tried to conclude his 5½ year inquiry into the affair, the Post said, quoting sources familiar with the investigation.

The Iran-contra scandal stemmed from a White House-run covert operation to sell arms to Iran to try to win the release of American hostages in Lebanon,

and then divert millions of dollars in profits to Nicaraguan contra rebels in 1985-86 despite a congressional ban on U.S. military aid.

Mr. Weinberger has so far insisted he did nothing wrong and has no information that would show Mr. Reagan took part in covering up the scandal.

Mr. Walsh's office has found band-written Weinberger notes that persuade them to think he knew more than his testimony indicated, the Post's sources said. The prosecutors appeared to be focusing on a controversial November 1985 arms shipment, by Israel to Iran, of U.S.-made Hawk anti-aircraft missiles, the Post said. The Reagan administration in-

initially tried to cover up the shipment because the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had played a role in it without formal prior authorisation by the president, as required by law.

Mr. Walsh's prosecutors were convinced Mr. Reagan had advanced knowledge of the shipment despite his claims under oath that he did not remember how it came about, the Post said.

The newspaper reported that prosecutors notified Mr. Weinberger's lawyers that they had what they considered a strong perjury or obstruction case against the former defence secretary and were prepared to obtain an indictment unless he agreed to provide evidence that would implicate Mr. Reagan.

Mass protest staged in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Pro-democracy demonstrators began to gather before sunset Sunday for a planned mass rally against Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon and the military's grip on politics.

The protesters, some carrying posters depicting Gen. Suchinda as a monitor lizard — a much-reviled animal in Thailand, were assembling at Sanam Luang, a large public field bordering the grand palace.

Pro-democracy leaders accused the government of trying to hinder the demonstration by hastily organising pop concerts and commandeering mobile toilets.

The protest faced competition from several musical events, television extravaganzas and a temporary Buddhist exhibition.

On the eve of the demonstration, key pro-democracy leader Chamlong Srimuang charged that to thwart the protest, the government had rented the city's mobile toilets, which would be needed at the rally site.

Mr. Chamlong, an ascetic and reputedly incorruptible politician, led a week of massive street demonstrations that ended last Monday only after leaders of the five governing parties consented to constitutional amendments requiring the prime minister to be an elected member of parliament.

The amendments would result in the ouster of Gen. Suchinda, a former army chief the demonstrators oppose because he is not elected. He was chosen prime minister by the coalition of pro-military parties after parliamentary elections in March.

But the protests, Thailand's largest in two decades, go beyond electoral issues.

Demonstrators, who have included students, academics and members of Bangkok's increasingly affluent middle class, have expressed anger over the military's grip on politics.

Gates determined to clear CIA in JFK case

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director Robert Gates has said that releasing documents on Lee Harvey Oswald was the first step in his efforts to clear the agency of suspicion in President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

He also criticised the movie JFK and its director Oliver Stone for raising the suspicions.

The CIA Wednesday made public 124 pages of documents

from its file on Oswald's activities before the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, but they contained little new information.

Oswald was named by a federal investigation in 1964 as the sole assassin.

"There has been some comment on this pre-assassination Oswald file and how little it contained. I want to re-emphasise that this pre-assassination mate-

rial is but the first instalment of all the material that we will review — an example of our intentions," Mr. Gates said at a House of Representatives hearing.

Mr. Gates said the CIA had some 300,000 pages of documents on the assassination, including 33,000 pages on Oswald. He has promised to make public as much of the information as possible after it is reviewed for security and privacy considerations.

2nd U.N. convoy leaves Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A second convoy carrying United Nations peacekeepers left shattered Bosnia Sunday.

The convoy of 40 vehicles carried about 80 people from U.N. headquarters, with blue U.N. flags fluttering on hazy morning. The heavier vehicles headed for Zagreb via wider roads and the rest, including the command staff of the force, headed for Belgrade.

Mortar blasts occasionally rang out Sunday morning. On Saturday, an 80-vehicle convoy carrying 170 U.N. personnel crossed into Serbia after taking a circuitous, mountain route to avoid roadblocks and fighting hotspots on the 200-kilometre journey.

"They arrived without any problems or incidents" in Serbia, said Dimitrios Tsouros, a U.N. spokesman in Belgrade.

Battles between Serbian fighters and Sarajevo's Muslim-led defenders shattered on hours-old truce to the Bosnian capital Saturday, and shelling continued into the night.

"If you have 500 snipers here killing Muslims, Serbs and Croats that's not ethnic, that's banditry — they're bad bandits," a Muslim, the house of his neighbour, a Croat, was smashed by a mortar shell fired from Serbian positions.

Some of the shelling by Serbian mortar crews in recent days targeted the Rainbow Hotel, base for nearly 300 U.N. staffers to pull out.

Sarajevo's Kosovo Hospital reported at least seven dead and 84 wounded in the fighting early Saturday. Chief surgeon Mufid Lazic said the hospital had no water and that it was running out of most medicines, including

anesthetics. The 12-nation European Community and several other nations, including the United States, ordered their ambassadors home to protest Serbia's role in the continuing violence.

Belgrade's Politika newspaper reported that two ethnic Croatian pilots defected from the federal army to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, in Yugoslav Air Force MiG-21s Friday.

Also Saturday, the U.S. Air Force sent two relief flights to Zagreb with 39,000 kilograms of food and other supplies for refugees from Bosnia.

The aid was part of an international relief effort that also included Switzerland, Italy, France and other countries. U.N. officials said they were arranging for the aid to be trucked to Bosnia.

The renewed fighting in Bosnia began hours after all sides had agreed on a truce, and it scuttled planned peace talks.

Bush attacks pessimists; mayors march on Washington

DALLAS (R) — President George Bush lashed out at "pessimists" and "declinists" as U.S. mayors marched in Washington to call attention to urban blight.

"I'm a little tired of the pessimism in this country... I'm making the case that America's best days lie before us," Mr. Bush told 2,433 graduates at Southern Methodist University.

"Much of the conventional wisdom today portrays American in decline... overrun by economic predators abroad and crippled by the economic problems at home," Mr. Bush said. "These declinists, as they are called, will baste to hear it but they're saying nothing new."

Mr. Bush drew applause from the audience of 8,000 who listened to him sound familiar themes: The need for a North American free trade zone including Mexico and Canada and for reforms in education, health care and the legal system.

He won the biggest ovation when he acknowledged: "For those of us in Washington, it is time to get our own house in order."

In Washington, the mayors of several big cities led a march expected to draw tens of thousands of people to call attention to plight of America's cities following the riots last month in Los Angeles.

The White House denies Mr. Bush's swing through Texas is a political trip linked to his campaign for re-election in November, but politics inevitably fol-

lowed Mr. Bush. Republican John Connolly, a former Texas governor and a power in the politically important state, hinted he might support a presidential bid by billionaire businessman Ross Perot instead of Mr. Bush.

In interviews, Mr. Connolly has voiced dissatisfaction with the Bush administration and praised Mr. Perot's organisation.

Mr. Connolly told the Houston Post Mr. Bush's weekend swing through Texas was an attempt to boost his flagging popularity.

"He's in trouble here. Perot would beat him in Texas today," Mr. Connolly said.

The U.S. mayors led at least 150,000 people on the march through Washington to demand money to halt the decline of U.S. cities.

Speakers, including black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson and New York Governor Mario Cuomo, accused President Bush of ignoring urban problems and called for a major shift of money from defence spending to domestic programmes.

"I don't want to hear, Mr. President that you've got the will and not the wallet," said Mr. Cuomo, who said the United States should invest \$50 billion in its cities and people. Mr. Cuomo and others spoke in front of the Washington Monument.

The march, organised by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, has been in the works for a year but gained new impetus after the

Los Angeles riots. Maxine Waters, a member of the House of Representatives whose district included areas in Los Angeles hardest hit by the violence, led marchers chanting, "No justice, no peace."

"Why must our elected officials keep turning their heads and sending our money all over the world rather than to our cities?" Mr. Waters said.

Rev. Jackson, a former presidential candidate, called for a national day of protest on June 19 to target police brutality and corporations that fail to invest in America and generate jobs.

Rev. Jackson said Congress and the national leadership "is not asleep, it's in a coma."

The mayors want \$34.8 billion from the defence budget rerouted to cities. Organisers said the march was supported by 150 mayors and 220 national and local organisations, and estimated the crowd at over 200,000. Local police estimated the crowd at 150,000 and reported no disturbances.

Meanwhile a U.S. opinion survey released Saturday showed undeclared independent presidential candidate Ross Perot leading President George Bush and Democratic front-runner Bill Clinton, the first such survey to put Mr. Perot ahead.

According to a Time magazine/CNN campaign poll, 33 per cent

of registered voters chose the Texas billionaire compared with 28 per cent for Bush and 24 per cent for Arkansas Governor Clinton. In a two-way race, Mr. Bush led Mr. Clinton 38 per cent to 35 per cent.

Mr. Perot, a Texas billionaire businessman, has yet to declare himself formally as an independent candidate for the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Time/CNN also released a broader poll that showed Mr. Bush's approval rating has slipped to 37 per cent, the lowest rate shown by a Time/CNN poll since he took office.

The campaign poll found that 27 per cent of voters who would support Mr. Clinton in a two-way race would switch to Mr. Perot in a three-way contest, while Mr. Bush would lose 25 per cent of supporters.

The campaign poll of 917 registered voters was conducted on May 13-14 by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman, and had a 3.2 per cent margin of error, Time said.

The Bush approval rating poll was of 1,250 adult Americans and had a 2.8 per cent margin of error. In April, that poll gave Mr. Bush a 41 per cent approval rating and in May 1991 showed 73 per cent thought he was doing a good job.

According to the poll of 917 registered voters, Mr. Perot also ran ahead of Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton as the candidate the public thinks would do the best job of reforming government, reducing the federal deficit and improving the economy.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

MP quits Seoul presidential race

SEOUL (R) — Lee Jung-Chan, one of the two contenders for South Korea's ruling party presidential nomination, said Sunday he was dropping out of the race, his aides said. The move leaves Kim Young-Sam, executive chairman of the faction-ridden Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), as the sole contender. The DLP is due to pick its presidential candidate at a national convention Tuesday. President Roh Tae-Woo, whose single five-year term ends next February, is constitutionally barred from standing again. Mr. Lee, a reform-minded DLP legislator, has been openly critical of Mr. Roh in recent days. He has said the president has been covertly taking sides with Mr. Kim despite his pledge to remain neutral in the two-way race.

Quake hits southern Philippines

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — An earthquake jolted a wide area of the southern island of Mindanao Sunday, shaking buildings and causing stampedes but there were no reports of casualties. Philippine police said Government seismologists in Manila said the quake measured 6.1 on the Richter Scale. Tremors of such size are known to have caused heavy loss of lives in populated centres. Hundreds of people fled their homes or rushed out of cinemas and churches in Davao City, 470 kilometres southeast of Manila, police said. Spectators attending a rock concert on a Davao University campus ran screaming into the streets as the quake, lasting a minute, struck at about 9 p.m. (1000 GMT).

Honecker rejects return to Germany

BERLIN (R) — Former east German leader Erich Honecker has refused to return from Moscow to face charges of incitement to manslaughter of people fleeing former Communist east Germany, a newspaper said Sunday. Kurier Am Sonntag said Mr. Honecker, 79, who was formally charged Friday, had telephoned his Berlin lawyers from Moscow to say he doubted he would get a fair trial. "It is not to be expected that I will return to Germany under such circumstances," the newspaper quoted him as saying. Mr. Honecker, who was charged in connection with the deaths of refugees fleeing across former east Germany's borders with the West, took refuge in the Chilean embassy in Moscow in December. Russia says it wants to hand him back to Germany but is unable to arrest him while he is in the embassy. Mr. Honecker, spirited to Moscow by Soviet authorities last year, ruled east Germany with an iron fist until a democratic revolution toppled the Communists and the Berlin Wall opened in 1989.

Shuttle Endeavour lands safely

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (R) — The U.S. space shuttle Endeavour landed safely after completing its first voyage and rescuing a wayward communications satellite. It took Endeavour's crew three spacewalks to rescue the 8,900-pound (4,000 kg) Intelsat Communications Satellite. In doing so, the six-man, one-woman crew also helped to salvage the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) reputation. The Endeavour was built to replace the shuttle Challenger which exploded on Jan. 28, 1986, shortly after launch, killing its seven-member crew. Veteran astronaut Dan Brandenstein glided Endeavour to a 225 mph (360 kmph) touchdown at 1:58 p.m. (2058 GMT). Seconds later, he pushed a cockpit button that released the 40-foot-diameter (12-metre) chute, one of several safety improvements built into the \$2 billion replacement for the Challenger.

3 N. Ireland police hurt in attack

LONDON (R) — A bomb severely damaged an armoured police patrol car in Northern Ireland and slightly injured three officers, police said Sunday. The attack happened in Dungannon, County Tyrone, just before midnight Saturday when glass was filled with high explosive was thrown at their vehicle in the town centre. Police said the three officers were treated in hospital and later discharged.

Spanish-French frontier post removed

MOLLO, Spain (R) — Spain and France abolished a border post Saturday for the first time in line with the European Community's (EC) agreement in Maastricht last December for closer cooperation on border controls. The mayors of Mollo in the northeast corner of Spain and Prats De Mollo in France held a public party and children carrying a European blue flag with 12 golden stars crossed the border to mark the event.

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